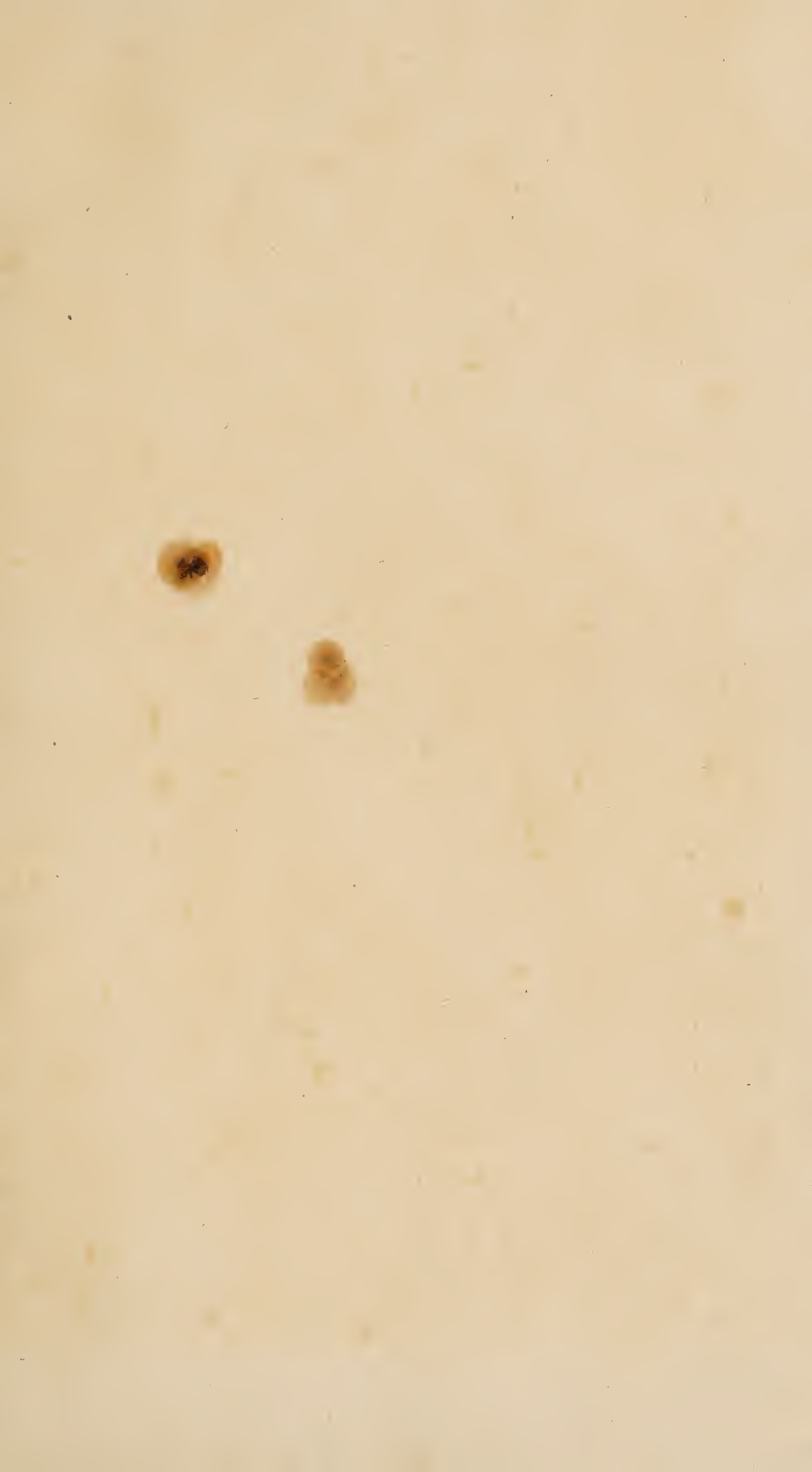


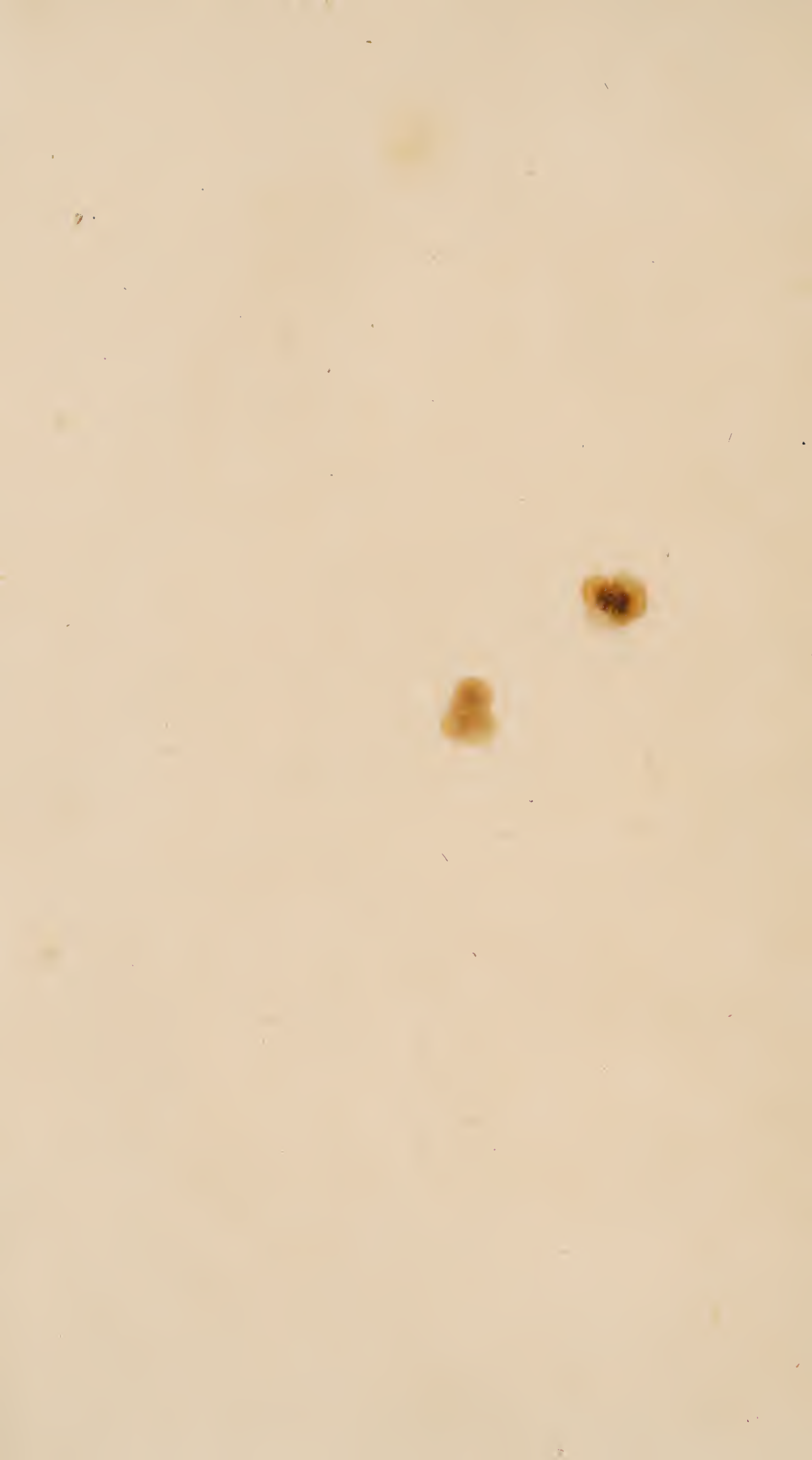


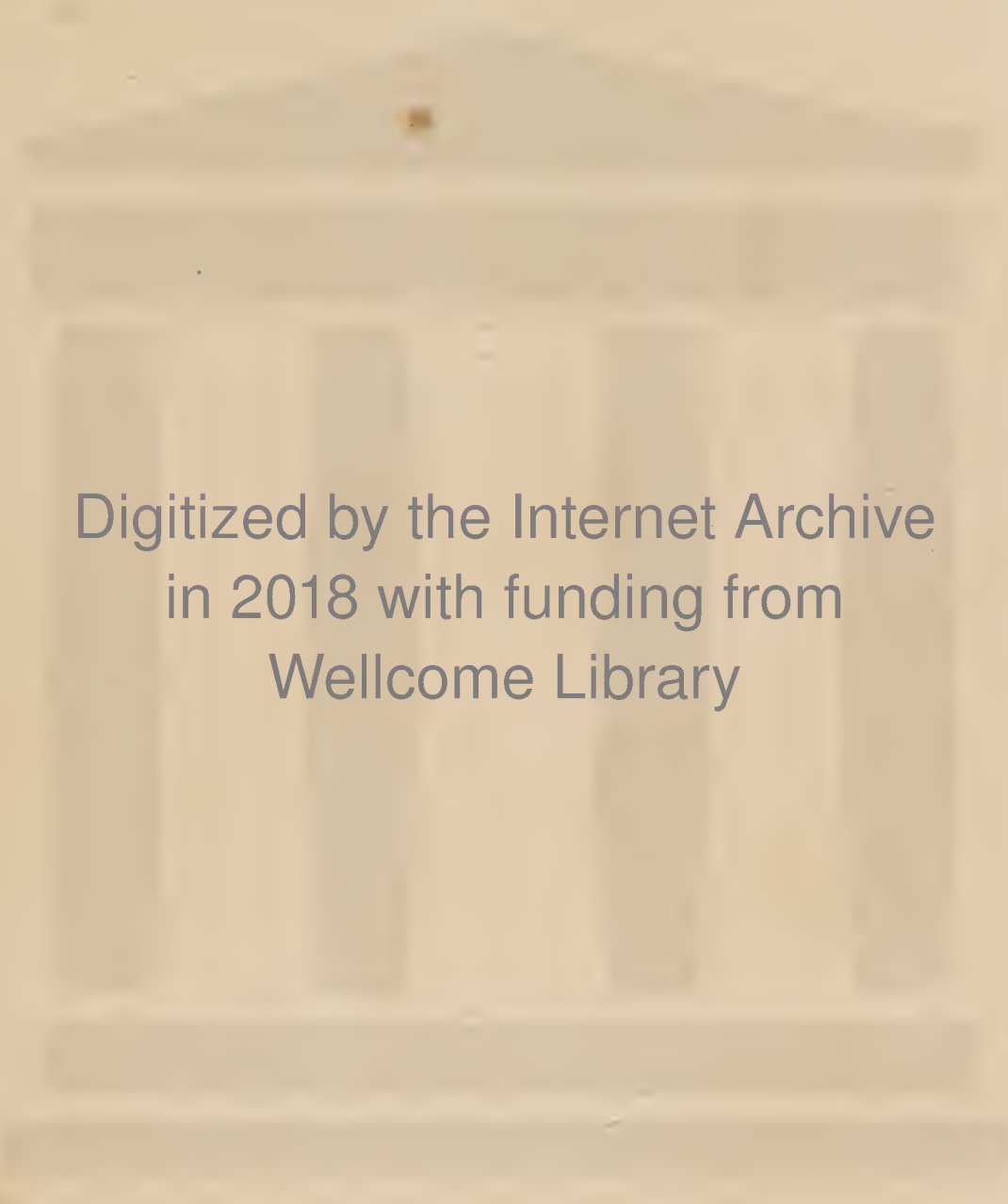
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RAMBLES
IN
EGYPT AND CANDIA,
WITH DETAILS OF THE
MILITARY POWER
AND RESOURCES OF THOSE COUNTRIES,
AND OBSERVATIONS ON THE
GOVERNMENT, POLICY, AND COMMERCIAL
SYSTEM
OF
MOHAMMED ALI.

BY
C. ROCHFORD SCOTT,

CAPTAIN, H. P., ROYAL STAFF CORPS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
HENRY COLBURN, PUBLISHER,
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1837.



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LONDON:

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P R E F A C E .

EGYPT has for many years past furnished such constant occupation to the printing presses of — I believe it may be said — all *literary* Europe, and given employment to the pens of so many authors of acknowledged talents and learning, that the publication of a light work on that country would certainly, under ordinary circumstances, subject its writer to the charge of presumption. Such, however, since the re-appearance of that ancient kingdom in the political world, is the interest attached to every thing relating to it, that, even though the harvest of the antiquary should be considered as satisfactorily got in and *shelved*, yet a gleaning of matters deemed unworthy of falling under the sickles of my

numerous scientific precursors may not prove unacceptable to the public at large. Indeed, I am disposed to think that a work on Egypt is at this moment likely to meet with greater favour in the eyes of the generality of readers, from the very circumstance of its professing to describe that country *as it is*, rather than *as it has been*.

Whilst, therefore, the following pages will be found to contain but little to arrest the attention of the antiquary or *savant*; yet, finding it impossible to leave the stupendous works of the ancients altogether unnoticed; I have, at the risk of wearying my readers with an oft-told tale, ventured on a brief description of those that came under my observation; and, in some few instances — when struck by any omission or inaccuracy in preceding writers — have even been induced to enter into a somewhat detailed account of them.

To many, it may appear strange that any thing *new* could possibly be written of matters which have been so fully and repeatedly

described, and yet more extraordinary that errors should have remained unnoticed for so many successive ages. I confess that on setting out for the land of Misraim, I entertained the notion that the constant passage of travellers over the same track must needs have worn it into a wide, well-defined road; and conceived that by committing Herodotus to my portmanteau, and to my memory as much of modern authors as it was capable of containing, I could not possibly miss my way, even in the Egyptian labyrinth.

I soon found, however, that most of the ancient finger-posts I had calculated upon to direct my steps were turned sadly awry, whilst many of the mile-stones, new and old, gave awfully long measure—and it may not be out of place here to observe, that, whilst the marvellous tales of Herodotus have always been implicitly believed, the statements of the enterprizing Bruce have, until very lately, been considered as bordering on the fabulous. On some points, therefore, connected with the *tra-*

ditional history of Egypt, I have ventured to re-enter the protest of my countryman against conclusions which seem to have been admitted by the moderns, without sufficiently weighing the testimony of the ancients, on whose authority they rest.

With respect to *young Egypt*, such was the discrepancy of opinion amongst recent writers, that it was obvious by close, unprejudiced observation alone could any idea be formed of the impulse given to the *march* of civilization ; for, whilst by some, the changes which have of late years been effected in that country are spoken of in the most exalted terms of praise ; by others, they are condemned as mere innovations, tending to no possible good : and, whilst the former maintain that, touched by Promethean fire, Egypt has started into a new life of civilization, the latter describe it as a country plunged in the lowest depths of misery, and governed by the most revolting tyranny. Both these statements are equally distant from the truth ;

having been dictated by self-interest in the one case—by prejudice in the other.

That Egypt is making rapid advances towards civilization will not admit of dispute; but there is yet much to be done ere she can take rank as an enlightened nation. That the ruler of Egypt is a despot, and the inhabitants mere serfs, chained to the land, are also facts beyond the power of contradiction; but that Mohammed Ali is a sanguinary tyrant, and that he has involved the Egyptians in greater misery than they before endured, are assertions that have been hazarded without due reflection.

It has been my endeavour to place those overcharged pictures in a more subdued and correct light—to describe the country as it really *is*, without, on the one hand, permitting my feelings as an Englishman to carry me into the abuse of every thing that is not in strict accordance with our notions of what *it should be*—nor, on the other, suffering the great good that certainly has been effected by the

present ruler of Egypt to lead me into admiration of such of his actions as are of an unjustifiable nature.

As regards the *improved state of the country*—though I did not, as I had been led to expect, find a *Diligence* grinding down a macadamised road between Cairo and Alexandria; nor the streets of those cities subjected to the “omnibus nuisance” — neither that “Gin Palaces” had been opened to facilitate the conversion of Mohammedans, and Penny Magazines published in Arabic for the diffusion of useful knowledge—yet I soon became sensible that, thanks to Mohammed Ali’s tyranny, a Christian’s head was now as safe on his shoulders in Cairo as in London—his purse safer in his pocket—that he was neither despised for his religion, nor ridiculed for his dress; but, on the contrary, was invariably treated with respect—that, without any outward check upon vice, it was less apparent in the streets of the Egyptian metropolis than in those of most European cities. In fine, it

appeared to me that the people—well disposed by nature—had rather been *weaned* from their vices and prejudices, by a growing sense of the advantages of civilization, than *forced* into compliance with an order of things, so totally at variance with all their former habits and preconceived notions.

I have dwelt with some stress, as well on the changes which have been effected in Egypt by the new institutions established by Mohammed Ali, as on those which must eventually be brought about, if his system be persevered in ; for these changes cannot but lead to very important results, not only as regards the future well-being of Egypt herself, but as they will affect the commercial ties by which other nations are connected with her ; and these changes having been brought about by the influence of a power hitherto, I may say, unknown in the annals of Egypt—namely, a *native* military force—warrants, in some measure, one of that profession presenting himself, as a commentator—if not on the results

that have followed its introduction—at all events, on the probable stability of institutions depending upon its maintenance—whose very existence, indeed, hangs upon its support.

On the subject of Candia, little has been written since that interesting island passed from the rule of the Sultan to that of the Viceroy of Egypt; a transfer which seems to have suggested itself to the great European Powers, as the only expedient for allaying their own mutual jealousies—thus, by common consent, placing this most valuable possession in the custody of the only power that could neither confer benefit upon nor derive advantage from it.

The unpretending title of my work will, I trust, save it from any very severe *literary* criticism. From the ordeal of *political criticism*, which has of late years obtained, it would be in vain to expect exemption; since even the *Rambler*, in describing some venerable pile that has withstood the storms and

tempests of ages, or the modern lath and plaster edifice, which every gust of wind shakes to the foundation, can scarcely escape the accusation of tinging his picture with a *Conservative* or *levelling* colouring. The Author, therefore, who ventures to comment on the government and institutions of a country, cannot but pass the Rubicon of politics, and must expect to find himself between the "*Caudinæ furculæ*" of Whig and Tory Reviewers. If, following the plan of the old man in the fable, he attempt to please both parties, he is sure, like him, to satisfy neither. I have not made any such vain attempt; but, convinced of the importance of the subject to my own country—however erroneous my views of it may be considered—have, at the risk of giving offence to both sides, fearlessly written what I think; and it strikes me that the policy of Great Britain in the affairs of the East continues still to be—what for many years past it has been—to wait for events, rather than to anticipate them.

I hope that the various errors, which I have taken the liberty of pointing out in the accounts of preceding writers, will not give offence ; most of them must either be mere errors of the press, or have arisen from inattention to calligraphy, in keeping their journals. Monsieur Rifaud, for instance, must doubtless have been conscious that the base of the great pyramid of Ghizeh is not “*un triangle équilatéral.*” I trust that my readers will be equally indulgent, in making allowance for the mistakes into which I, peradventure, may have fallen, from *my* “pencilings” not having always been written with “*H. B.’s*”—I mean with the indelible touches of Messrs. Brookman and Langdon’s *hard black* leads ; nor with the spirited chalk of the inimitable political sketcher, whose graphic pencil is given but to few.

There are some of my readers who, I fear, will not readily pardon my “little faith” in the authority of ancient writers, and scepticism of the doctrines broached by the mo-

derns. To such I must plead the excuse of a malformation of the cranium, which, besides exhibiting a sad deficiency in the protuberance of veneration, is marked with but very slight undulations of the imaginative organs. That of self-esteem is not, however, so excessively manifested, as to make me declare “*ce n'est que moi qui aie toujours raison.*”

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RAMBLES

IN

EGYPT AND CANDIA.

CHAPTER I.

English Travellers bound to Egypt — Dread of Cholera at Malta — Voyage to Alexandria — Tempestuous Weather — Miseries on Board — Superstition — A Catholic Skipper — Monotonous Fare — First View of the Egyptian Coast — Unpleasant Discovery — Pompey's Pillar — Fleet of Mohammed Ali — Arrival at Alexandria — Picturesque Appearance of the City — Extensive Commerce — Wretched Streets — Motley Population — Extent and Situation of Alexandria — The Peninsula of Pharos — Commanding Fortresses — The Walls described — Scene of Desolation — The Buildings and Shops — Ships in the Harbour — Cleopatra's Needle — The Celebrated Alexandrian Museum.

ENGLISH travellers proceeding to Egypt have generally selected Malta as the point for “taking their final departure” from the shores of Europe, La Valetta appearing to

offer more readily the means of forwarding them to their destination than any continental port, as well as of supplying them with the store of comforts considered indispensable for those who purpose exposing themselves to the hardships of a nomadic life.

Acting somewhat under this delusion, I repaired to Malta in the winter of 1833-4. I could not have arrived at a more unlucky period, for the authorities were labouring under extravagant apprehensions of cholera; and the steamer that conveyed me from Gibraltar had been but three weeks on its passage from England, where the disease was then prevalent. Lest, therefore, the horrible malady should have shut itself up in the portmanteaus and carpet-bags of my fellow-passengers, we were all doomed to incarceration in the Lazaretto for fourteen days; and, during that period, our effects were exposed to the diurnal gaze of an old Maltese "Guardian," who finally pronounced that he could discover nothing like cholera about them.

On our return to the world after this fort-

night's moral burking, I proceeded without loss of time to the main harbour to examine the different vessels about to sail for Alexandria, of which, through the media of a mercantile friend, fire, sulphur, and a pair of tongs, I had succeeded in obtaining a list during my imprisonment.

The intercourse between Malta and Alexandria, at no season very *brisk*, is in the winter extremely dull. I found two vessels only presenting "peculiarly eligible opportunities" for proceeding to the Egyptian port. One, a brig that having just completed her cargo of coal-tar, stock-fish, bar-iron, and "sundries," was only waiting for a trifling addition of some hundreds of Maltese chairs and tables that were to go as deck-passengers. The other, a Polacca, laden with blocks of *building stone*, was advertised to sail "all next week." I made choice of the lighter vessel, and added myself and luggage to the "*general cargo*."

The recent establishment of a monthly communication by steam between Malta and

Egypt relieves travellers just now from the embarrassing choice of evils to which I was subjected ; but, having some doubt of the success of this government experiment, (at all events for some years to come, when, and not before, it may be expected to answer, *i. e.* to pay), and thinking it probable that it may not be persevered in, if found to continue a “*losing concern*,” I shall, with a charitable feeling towards those wanderers who may (should my forebodings prove true) have to follow in my track, give a short account of my voyage, by which some notion may be formed of the disagreeables that are to be encountered on board a Maltese trader, besides the odour of coal-tar and stock-fish.

It may not be out of place here to observe, however, that from subsequent experience I found opportunities for Alexandria are much more frequent from the ports of Nauplia, Trieste, Leghorn, and Marseilles, than from La Valetta, (indeed, from the two first named, packets sail regularly at stated periods), and that the ships used in the Egyp-

tian trade at those ports are superior in every respect to the Maltese. The traveller from England, by journeying, therefore, to any one of those points, avoids the long sea voyage round Cape St. Vincent, and the risk of contracting a liver complaint in the Lazaretto of La Valetta.

The vessel in which I had engaged a berth bore the imposing name of the "Gran Bretagna," and, on payment of a dollar, I was permitted to embark on board the Mistress of the Ocean. This pitiful tax is levied on persons of all nations and conditions, who, either from business or over-baking, have occasion to leave the "*little military hot-house.*"

The weather, calm and cloudless as we sailed slowly out of the beautiful harbour of La Valetta, soon afterwards became wet and tempestuous ; and, for four days and nights, our little vessel was tossed to and fro by a sea that, excepting in the Gulf of Lyons, I scarcely expected to have encountered in the Mediterranean, and which completely drenched every

thing that was not under hatches. Fortunately, myself and two friends had secured the main-cabin for our own use, where, speaking by comparison, we were tolerably free from inconvenience on the score of salt water. The rest of the vessel, crowded with thirty-five passengers of all sorts, besides a numerous crew, presented a picture of misery hardly to be conceived by any one who has not witnessed the *désagrémens* experienced on board a transport that has been hurried off to sea, with decks yet encumbered with unstowed sea stock, sick soldiers' wives, squalling children, washing-tubs, and medical comforts.

Our "patron," a stanch Romanist — as most Maltese are—implored St. Antonio and all the protectors of salt water travellers to intercede for us and allay the fury of the pitiless element. Finding his prayers unavailing, he told me, in accents of despair, that he greatly feared the inclemency of the weather and obduracy of the saints were occasioned by his having been so imprudent

as to receive an American Methodist Missionary on board. This gentleman, with his wife and attendant, was snugly boxed up in a "state cabin" six feet by four, and totally unconscious of danger, and was flattering himself with the hope (the wind being perfectly fair) of a speedy termination to this maritime purgatory.

I ventured to hint to the Miletan skipper that it was possible this good man might be intended as a St. Paul for the Egyptians; to which he replied only by a scowl at myself, implying that he thought there were too many of us English heretics on board to warrant his indulging in the hope of the good brig reaching her destined port in safety.

As a kind of counterspell, I presume, to our heresy, the main cabin was decorated with a portrait of the especial protectrice of his vessel—Notre Dame de la Garde de Marseilles—on whose lachrymose countenance a lamp was constantly shedding its pale light, excepting when (as sometimes would happen) the cabin boy, whose duty it was to officiate

as priest, neglected to supply the votive oil.

On such unlucky occasions, the culprit "Smitché" was most unmercifully cuffed or kicked, according as the irritated and Catholic skipper's fists or toes came most readily in contact with his recreant body. In other respects, our patron was a placable tobacco-loving personage, and seemed to trust entirely to the ship's log, and N. D. de la Garde, to bring us sooner or later to our destination.

As a purveyor, I must say, we found him wanting; and I would by no means advise other travellers to place their digestive organs at the mercy of a Maltese skipper's *cuisine*. In his contract, which ran "*to be well fed*," he failed most signally; rather, however, in respect to quality than quantity.

Our fare was plentiful enough, but it consisted of hard biscuits, maccaroni, and anatomies of ancient fowls, all equally uneatable, and repeated three times a day for breakfast, dinner, and *tea*.

An uninterrupted fair wind, though blow-

ing somewhat stronger than was agreeable—and, as it unfortunately turned out, than was profitable—promised, however, to release us quickly from this state of purgatory; and, at twelve o'clock on the sixth day after leaving Malta, we joyfully heard it announced that, according to the ship's log, corroborated by a murky glimpse of Gozo di Candia, caught three days before, and two misty solar observations, obtained in the course of our voyage, we were within sixty miles of Alexandria.

Two short hours after this agreeable news was communicated to us, land was descried ahead—a range of sand-hills stretching away to the eastward. A consultation was instantly held between the skipper and his two mates, to determine what part of the land of Egypt this could possibly be, which so ill agreed with the ship's reckoning—so ill, indeed, as it eventually turned out, that, had the error been some fifty miles *less*, the good brig would have been hard and fast ashore, about the middle of the preceding night, without a chance of salvation for either crew

or cargo. After due deliberation, it was pronounced to be the coast about the Arab's Tower ; and, consequently, that we were but a few miles to windward of our port.

Confidence being now restored, all eyes were on the look-out for Pompey's Pillar ; and a tall edifice, of which the base was concealed by the sand-hills, was pronounced to be that celebrated monument. We travellers had read, however, that it was a Corinthian column, which the building pointed out to us certainly was not—in fact, it was clearly the minaret of some mosque. Our lore was scouted ; but, as the day was drawing to a close, and there was no appearance of a pilot-boat, it was determined to keep the vessel off shore for the night, and stand in again in the morning.

We saw nothing more of the land, however, until long after twelve o'clock next day. The same range of sand-hills was then made as before ; and the same confidence existed as to its being the coast about Alexandria. At length, having stood very close in, and no town being visible, a suspicion arose that

there was a “screw loose” somewhere—probably in the skipper’s quadrant, for it was no longer doubtful that we had overshot our mark. This unpleasant discovery caused our vessel to be braced sharp up to a wind that had been perfectly fair; and, after beating stoutly for two days, we were shown a second Pompey’s Pillar, which proved to be another minaret.

The day following it was admitted that, in the direction we were now approaching Alexandria, it would not be possible to see the Pillar; but we were consoled by the assurance that a building we descried, apparently situated on a low sandy island, was the castle of Aboukir, only about ten miles to leeward of our port. What this actually was, I rather think our skipper never made out to his satisfaction; but I afterwards ascertained it to have been the fort at the mouth of the Rosetta branch of the Nile!

How long this unenviable state of uncertainty might have lasted is very problematical, for our *patron* knew no more where

his ship was than did N. D. de la Garde de Marseilles. As he invariably stood off the shore all night, to avoid running upon it, and knew not whether the land he made next day was to the eastward or to the westward of that he had seen the evening before, it would, had it come on to blow, have ended probably in our being stranded on the coast of Syria.

Fortunately, however, the weather moderated, and, after beating about five days, we fell in with the fleet of Mohammed Ali, on its return from Candia, doing its best, like ourselves, to make the port of Alexandria. We kept company with it for two more days, when, thanks to its reckoning having been somewhat better kept than our's, we finally reached our destination, having, by an error of one hundred miles, lengthened our voyage by eight days.

Although this was in a great measure occasioned by the want of a chronometer and proper nautical instruments, still no person who had once seen the coast of Egypt ought to have mistaken the high sand-hills we

first made for the land about Alexandria ; in fact, there are no high sand-hills like those we saw along any part of the shore, excepting at Cape Bourlos, the northernmost point of the Egyptian coast, which was the land we had first made.

The colour of the water on the following days ought also to have told any one who had been on that coast before that we were off one of the mouths of the Nile. Yet, such was the ignorance of all concerned in the navigation of the vessel, that this, too, was unheeded.

We were not a little pleased to get a pilot on board, receive pratique, and a few hours after to be safe at anchor in the fine harbour of Alexandria.

The anchorage is spacious, and, though apparently much exposed to the northward and westward, is, nevertheless, not only rendered perfectly secure, but even difficult of approach by a ledge of sunken rocks that stretches across its mouth, leaving but two narrow channels by which large vessels can enter.

The appearance of Alexandria from the anchorage is much more imposing than one is generally led to expect. To the north is a slightly elevated neck of land on which are situated the Viceroy's Palace, Harem, &c. The westernmost point of it is occupied by a modernised fort, that enfilades the narrow ledge of rocks which serves, as before mentioned, as a breakwater to the harbour.

Along the beach, to the eastward, is the dockyard, indicated by some extensive ranges of buildings, and numerous vessels on the stocks.

Beyond this, numerous picturesque minarets and turrets present themselves, overtopping the walls of the city, the extent of which, to the south, is marked by a Fort of modern construction, that sweeps the anchorage and its approaches with a formidable fire. Outside the walls, but still on the margin of the bay, a handsome range of store-houses marks the site of the basin at the head of the Mahmoudieh Canal, and bounding the harbour, to the westward, are the mounds of the

ancient Necropolis, now covered with wind-mills.

On all sides the spectator is surrounded by a forest of masts, bespeaking the extensive commerce of this productive country; and looking seawards, and closing the panorama, is usually to be seen an imposing fleet of line-of-battle ships at anchor, bearing the flag of regenerate Egypt.

Every thing about one calls to mind Mohammed Ali, and one cannot but be impressed, even before landing, with a favourable opinion of this extraordinary man.

No one troubled us on landing with a question about passports, and a very slight inspection of our baggage at the Custom House was all the inconvenience experienced on that second, everflowing source of annoyance to travellers in most parts of Europe. The demand of a few piastres that followed was so completely in accordance with European custom as to elicit no further remark from us than a laudatory one of the moderate consciences of the Viceroy's faithful servants.

Our trunks, &c., having, amidst much wordy squabbling, been disposed of on the backs of divers camels, that, kneeling down on the beach to receive their loads, appeared to be allowed to judge for themselves as to when they were sufficiently burthened, we made the best of our way through the crowded streets to the Albergo dei Tre Anchore.

The favourable impression made by the external appearance of Alexandria wears off considerably on threading its crooked and dirty streets on the back of an ass. There is, nevertheless, much to interest and amuse one who sees an eastern city for the first time — in the novelty of the style of building, the gaudiness and variety of the Oriental costumes, and the motley population of Greeks, Jews, Musselmans, and Christians, that throng the streets, and with whom the unsightly camel and laborious ass mix in the most unceremonious manner.

Modern Alexandria occupies but a small portion of the ground once covered by the “second city of the universe.” It stands

upon a narrow neck of land that connects what formerly was the Island of Pharos with the main land, and is, consequently, washed on two sides by the sea. Its whole circuit does not exceed two miles and a half. The Island, or, (as it should now more properly be called), the Peninsula of Pharos, is a narrow rocky spit, extending about two miles east and west, (or, to speak more correctly, N. E. and S. W., that is, parallel to the line of coast), and which, stretching beyond the town on each side, so as to form with it a T, serves as a mole or breakwater for the two harbours.

At the eastern extremity of this ledge stands the Pharos, or Light-house, enclosed by a castle that commands the entrance to the ancient harbour. At the westernmost point is situated the fort, which has already been mentioned as sweeping with its fire the approaches to the great harbour; and, on a projecting point, about midway between them, is a third work, which serves to cover the city from the sea.

On the land side, the town is defended by a double *enceinte* of walls; the first of these is drawn across the isthmus between the two harbours, and has an extent of about one thousand yards. The outer wall is advanced rather more than half a mile beyond this, but stretches out considerably to the eastward, (somewhat in the form of a horn-work), and presents to the north a front of nearly two miles in length. Neither of these walls is by any means well-built, or judiciously planned; they are both of recent construction, but raised upon the foundations of other works. They have parapets for musquetry, and are flanked, at short intervals, by large square towers mounting artillery.

In the area comprised between the first and second walls are two isolated hills, which may be looked upon as citadels, possessing a general command over the rest of the defences, their summits being occupied by formidable forts, named Cretin and Cafarelli, after two general officers in Buona-

On stone by H. J. Hammerman.



VUE DE ALEXANDRIA.

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parte's army. The surface of the rest of this space, (which is three times as large as that occupied by the city), has the mammillated appearance of an abandoned mining country. Underneath this desolate expanse of tumuli is a vast labyrinth of ruins, which may not improperly be termed a lode of building materials, for the houses of Modern Alexandria are almost all constructed with the cut stones and granite pillars excavated here, the store of which appears to be inexhaustible.

The city, though ill-built, contains many handsome houses, and, towards its southern extremity, where the Frank quarter is situated, some wide, straight streets have recently been built, which would be considered ornamental any where.

The population, including the sailors and artificers employed in the Arsenal, is estimated at 40,000 souls, of whom upwards of 5000 are Franks and Jews. Enormous as this amount appears to be for a city occupying so small a space, yet, considering the narrow-

ness of the streets, and the height and compactness of the houses, I should say that it is not by any means exaggerated.* There is also a peculiarity in the construction of the town, that enables it to stow away the population very closely. This consists in most of the large stacks of buildings having interior courts, from whence public staircases ascend to galleries at every floor, which thus become streets, and every room opening into them may be made a separate dwelling.

These buildings are common in the East, and are called Okellas: some of them contain as many as six hundred persons. From the ease with which they may be cut off from the other parts of the town, they offer great facilities for checking the spread of contagious disorders, as well as for generating them, if they are not kept clean and well ventilated.

The shops of Alexandria are extremely good; all the productions of Europe may be

* This was previously to the breaking out of the plague, in 1835, which is computed to have carried off 18,000 souls in Alexandria alone, and in all Egypt, 200,000.

procured at them, nearly as cheap as in the countries from whence they are brought. The bazaars, also, are well stocked with the produce of the East; in fact, every thing denotes a thriving trade and great influx of money. The inns are very tolerable—indeed, would be considered *good* by persons arriving from Greece, Sicily, or Southern Italy. A few carriages and English dennets may be seen occasionally in the main street — the only one practicable for them out of the Frank quarter. Carts are also coming into use, though camels are still generally employed for the conveyance of heavy goods from the wharf to the merchants' warehouses.

The ass is the common "*monture*" for all classes of persons to whom either business or inclination renders locomotion necessary, and the enduring little animal is to be met with ready saddled and bridled at the corner of every street, and may be hired for a whole day, driver included, for the moderate sum of ten-pence.

The commerce of Alexandria, as may be

supposed from its being the only Egyptian port in the Mediterranean, offering a secure anchorage for ships, is very great. The western harbour, spacious as it is, (being that in which all vessels are obliged to discharge their cargoes), is at all times completely thronged with ships of every description of rig, and the flag of almost every commercial nation in the world may be seen there — the bunting of Austria and France usually predominating.

Of eighty square-rigged merchant vessels that I at one time counted in the harbour, twenty-four were Austrian, or Tuscan, fifteen French, six English, (i. e. Maltese) six Sardinian, four Swedish, four Neapolitan, and one Russian. The rest had no colours displayed, and I believe were mostly Greeks. The number of small craft was, perhaps, three times as great as that of square-rigged vessels ; for the principal export trade of Egypt, being to Turkey, the Greek Islands, and Levant, is more conveniently carried on in small bottoms.

There is but one wharf for landing merchandize, and it is inconveniently small. The beach alongside is, however, of a nature to admit of boats being run on any part of it, and the goods are quickly brought to shore by Arab porters.

The Eastern, called the New Harbour, (although it more properly deserves the name of the *old*, being that which was used by the Greeks and Romans), serves now merely as an anchorage for vessels undergoing quarantine. It is equally as well, perhaps better, sheltered than the principal harbour, but neither so convenient nor so safe, being obstructed by reefs of sunken rocks, and strewn with the *débris* of the various massive buildings that formerly lined its quays.

On the extreme point of a ledge of rocks, that juts out from the land and shelters this harbour to the east, is situated an old tower, which claims the honour of having been the prison of Cleopatra. Near the spot where this ledge meets the shore, and just within the exterior wall of the city, stands the granite

obelisk, called the "Needle," of that celebrated queen.

On the margin of the harbour, somewhat nearer the modern city, may be traced the ruins of the famous library, which unfortunately stood close to the sea wall,* and also

* The celebrated Alexandrian Museum and Library, founded by Ptolemy Soter, B. C. 293, is stated to have been three times destroyed. On the first occasion, it was burnt accidentally, the flames from the Egyptian fleet, to which Julius Cæsar (at that time besieged in the city), had ordered fire to be set, having communicated to the Library.

It was rebuilt soon after, and its shelves replenished by Mark Anthony, and destroyed a second time by a fanatic and infuriated Christian mob, when the temple of Serapis, and other places of Pagan idolatry, were razed to the ground by order of the Emperor Theodosius.

The third and final destruction of the Library took place on the capture of the city by the Saracens, A. D. 640, on which occasion it is recorded that Amron, the Mohammedan general, sent to the Khalif to learn his pleasure as to the disposal of the books. "If," replied the logical successor of the prophet, "they are in conformity to the Koran, they are superfluous — if contrary to it, pernicious — let them, therefore, be destroyed." They are said to have afforded fuel for the stoves of the numerous hot baths of Alexandria for six months. Had they been preserved, they would probably have furnished fuel for theological controversy to this day. The loss of the original library is much to be deplored, however, as by its destruction were irretrievably lost many valuable works of the earliest writers of antiquity.

the remains of an artificial beach, composed of large blocks of granite, sloping towards the sea, which must have been constructed by the ancients to facilitate the drawing up and re-launching of their galleys.

CHAPTER II.

Ruins of Ancient Alexandria — The Catacombs — Cleopatra's Needle and Pompey's Pillar — Monuments Mutilated by Travelers — The Naval Arsenal Described — Structure of the Egyptian Ships — Strength of the Navy — Visit on Board a Three Decker — Description of the Ship — Naval Discipline — Flogging — Familiarity between Officers and Sailors — Their Dress, Pay, &c. — Montouch Pacha — Suggestions for Improvements on the Egyptian Navy — Palace of the Viceroy — His Seraglio — Garrison of Alexandria — The Lazaretto — Ravages of the Plague — Delightful Environs — Society and Amusements.

IT WOULD be in vain to search within the walls of Modern Alexandria for any traces of the proud capital of the Ptolemies : scarcely, indeed, can any remains of the archiepiscopal city that in after ages disgraced Christianity by its tumults, massacres, and disputes, be discovered. Ruins of temples, churches, &c., long since crumbled to dust, are strewn for miles in all directions ; but, within the enclosure of the present city, there is not now

standing a single building that can boast of any great antiquity.

The Catacombs are very extensive: the whole range of low calcareous hills bordering the southern shore of the principal harbour is perforated with them throughout, but they are in so very ruinous a state as to excite but little interest. The same may be said of the remains of the church of Saint Athanasius, which may be seen near a Greek convent, situated between the two walls of the city.

In fact, the only monuments worthy of notice that remain in a tolerable state of preservation are the two commonly known by the names of Cleopatra's Needle and Pompey's Pillar, both situated outside the modern city. Of these so much has been said by former travellers, that more than a very brief notice of them would be superfluous. The first is a beautifully proportioned quadrangular pyramid of red granite, covered with hieroglyphics, which, on two sides, are very perfect, but, on the others, have been nearly obliterated.

rated by the action of the drift sand, wind, and sea air. This obelisk is supposed to have been brought from Heliopolis. It is, however, somewhat larger than that now standing there, and differs from it* in having three rows of figures sculptured down each side.

Another obelisk, which lies on the ground close to that described, is said to belong to the English nation, but, from the injury that it has received from the hammers of *collectors of curiosities*, it has ceased to be worth the expense of removal. Even that of the two which yet stands proudly erect in the midst of this scene of devastation—devastation that has been effected more by the destructive hand of man than by the silent operation of time—has not altogether escaped mutilation. Many are the little chips that have been broken off to carry to every part of the world, as *specimens* of Cleopatra's Needle, but no

* It will be perceived here, and in many future instances, that I anticipate my acquaintance with other places. I thought it better to do so, than to be constantly recurring to the same subjects.

one amongst the many who aspire in this way to a travelled celebrity has yet presumed to disfigure its beautifully polished sides by the inscription of his unimportant name.

Would that the same forbearance could be recorded of those who have achieved the wondrous exploit of clambering to the top of “Pompey’s Pillar !” (as the granite Corinthian column, standing about half a mile beyond the exterior city wall, is erroneously called). Alas ! its shaft is absolutely covered with the names, styles, and conditions of people of all nations. It could hardly have been supposed that so many persons of such excessively bad taste would be found amongst those whose education extended to reading and writing. They would certainly have spared themselves the pains that evidently have been taken to obtain this fame, if they had had the slightest notion of its ephemeral nature — for such it is — each succeeding traveller scrupling not to write his own name over that of the ambitious visiter of the preceding day.

Some attempts at gaining a more lasting celebrity as climbers have, however, been made of late years with, (I regret to say,) a better prospect of success. The fact of the summit of the column having been gained by the crews of two English vessels is recorded in letters of black paint upwards of a foot in length and half way up the shaft. This exalted position will probably be maintained by H.M.S.—— and the R.Y.C. ; until, within the march of civilization, Egypt produces her “Matchless Hunts” and “Robert Warrens.”

Of the modern sights of Alexandria, the Naval Arsenal is the most worthy of notice, not alone on account of the magnificent scale of the establishment, but, from the degree of perfection to which, in the short time it has been in existence, its different departments have been brought. Some long ranges of handsome stone buildings, standing at a convenient distance from the docks, contain the storehouses and workshops of the various departments. On the ground floor are those

of the blacksmiths, carpenters, shipwrights, coopers, pump and block-makers, &c., and also the store-rooms for heavy articles, such as iron and timber. Above, are warehouses for lighter stores—canvass, bunting, clothing, mathematical and nautical instruments, and other articles of equipment; as also workshops for sail-makers, tailors, &c., school-rooms, offices, and printing-presses. A rope-walk occupies the entire length of one of these buildings, and is one thousand feet long.

The stores contain every thing necessary for a ship's equipment, even including furniture for the officers' cabins, which are fitted up, to the most trivial articles, at the expense of the Viceroy. I was not a little surprised to find that his highness's munificence extended even to the supply of clothes and *hair-brushes* for the officers' cabins. Most of the small articles that are of foreign manufacture are procured from France, and their supply has very much the appearance of a *job* — notoriously that of hair-brushes for a people who keep their heads close shaved —

but the cotton sail-cloth, and stuffs for the sailors' clothing, the bunting, serges, &c., are of Egyptian manufacture. Very few things are English, and of these bar-iron was the only article that figured conspicuously.

In the storehouses, I noticed some brass swivel guns, of about a pound calibre: a few were English, but the greater part were of native workmanship. They were all fitted with percussion-locks.

The number of men employed in the Arsenal amounts to three thousand. I was rather startled on receiving this information; but, on counting upwards of fifty men at work in the *pump-room*, and seventy tailors plying the needle in another apartment, I became convinced of its correctness.

The workmen, with very few exceptions, are natives of the country, and their work, considering the age at which they commenced learning their respective trades, and the short time they have been employed at them, is surprisingly good. The foremen are mostly foreigners—Frenchmen, Italians, and Mal-

tese. The director of the establishment and naval architect (Cerisy Bey)* is a native of France.

The pay of a foreman is about two shillings and three pence per diem ; that of a workman varies according to the degree of proficiency which he has attained — from *one penny farthing to seven pence*. Such as are on the lowest rate of pay receive, however, an allowance of food, in addition. These are scanty pittances, when compared with the wages of artificers in other countries, but by no means so in a land where meat is but seldom eaten, and in which all the articles considered by the natives as *the necessaries of life* are to be obtained for a mere trifle.

The Dock-yard contains four permanent slips for building vessels of the largest class, their dimensions being one hundred and ninety five feet by thirty-three. The slips are of stone, each on a series of arches forming an inclined plane, upon which the

* Monsieur Cerisy has lately received his *congé*.

keel of the ship rests. Several vessels have already been launched from them, and three line-of-battle ships and a large transport were in a state of forwardness when I left Alexandria. A yacht for the Viceroy's own use was building on a temporary slip, which also was nearly completed.

The build of the Egyptian ships is by no means so strong as of those in our service, and the timber of which they are constructed (now brought principally from the newly-acquired province of Adana) is not sufficiently seasoned. They are, however, fine models of vessels, and most of the latest improvements in naval architecture have been adopted in their construction—such as round sterns, diagonal planking for the decks, “made masts,” that is, composed of various pieces, &c., &c.

The Egyptian navy “afloat” consists of eighty line-of-battle ships of from ninety to one hundred and thirty-six guns, seven large frigates (two double banked) of from fifty to sixty guns, six corvettes, eight brigs,

and several cutters, schooners, fire-ships, gun-boats, and transports. They are mostly named after the principal towns of Egypt — such as Mesr, (Cairo) Mehalet Kebeer, Mansourah, &c.

The first time I visited one of the Egyptian ships of war was under every disadvantage, having on my way gone on board his majesty's sloop *Champion*, a pattern of order, cleanliness, and regularity, even in our service. I was, nevertheless, struck on planting my foot on the deck of the "Mesr" to find those good qualities (the first to attract a landsman's attention) possessed to a very considerable degree. A sailor's practised eye would probably have detected numerous faults in the setting up of rigging, in the internal economy of the vessel, and so forth, which to me were not apparent; but, in every thing, my expectations were far surpassed. The vessel, a noble three-decker, mounting one hundred and thirty-six guns, was at that time commanded by a Frenchman, whose good taste in fitting up his ship I could not but admire.

There was no attempt at finery, (so *deplacé* in the naval service); on the contrary, every thing was studiously plain. There was, at the same time, however, a want of that *finish* which is so observable in English vessels, (and I think I may say in English vessels *only*), although all that met the eye was solid and good.

The guns were in excellent order, and all fitted with sights; the decks clean and clear, and devoid of any close disagreeable smell. The arrangement of the powder-magazine deserved but little praise, and the size of the hospital ward certainly did not contemplate the care of a long list of wounded.

My astonishment was great on being informed that smoking was forbidden on board the Egyptian ships:* not a pipe was to be seen or smelt. I could not but think that this was warring rather *à l'outrance* against the taste and habits of the people, and could hardly agree to the justness of the reason

* I found afterwards, however, that in many of the Egyptian ships this prohibition was not strictly enforced whilst in port.

assigned for the prohibition, namely, that it would be unsafe on board ship to have twelve or thirteen hundred chibouques in activity at the same time ; for might they not be allowed to smoke in watches ? Our sailors are not inveterate smokers, yet Jack likes his pipe, and is generally permitted, at stated times and places, to indulge in a whiff of the deleterious but captivating weed ; surely, the poor Arab, to whom smoking is second nature, might also be allowed to enjoy his “ kif.”

There is a school for the instruction of the midshipmen and petty officers on board the *Mesr*, (now the admiral’s ship), and also a band of music, which, when the French leader is sober, plays *Malbrouk* and the *Marseillaise* with tolerable accuracy.

The *Mehalet Kebeer* is, perhaps, the best regulated ship in the Egyptian Navy. It is a fine round-sterned two-decker, carrying one hundred guns, all thirty-two pounders, of which thirty on the upper deck are carronades. The crew consisted of one thousand one hundred men. The complement of men to the *Egyp-*

tian ships is ten to a gun,* but the actual number usually exceeds that average. The officers are far too few in proportion to the men. The Mehalet Kebeer, for instance, had only a first and second captain, seven lieutenants, and ten or twelve midshipmen : the petty officers were tolerably numerous.

The sailors are fine young men, but, nevertheless, too old to commence learning a profession requiring so much personal activity ; and, above all, of a kind to which they have been so perfectly unaccustomed. They are all taught the musket exercise, as well as the use of the cutlass and boarding-pike, there being no distinct marine corps, as in the British service. They are well fed and clothed, extremely healthy, and apparently contented ; and I can hardly conceive that any European who visits one of these ships, after having travelled in Upper Egypt, would assert that the Fellahs are to be pitied for being *forced* to become sailors.

Flogging is the usual punishment by which

* That is, to the actual number of guns, not to the broadside.

the discipline of the Egyptian navy is maintained, and all ranks, from the second captain downwards, are subjected to it; but officers can only be punished in this ignominious way by sentence of a court-martial. Punishments of any sort are, however, by no means frequent.

The discipline is *slack*, but this arises from the familiarity existing between the officers and the sailors. The Arab is naturally obedient to his superiors, so long as they maintain their places; but both officers and men are unavoidably taken from the same class—for there is but one in Egypt. They are, consequently, on a par in point of birth, and as yet but little removed from each other by education. The only distinction between them is the gold-laced coat worn by the former, and that loses all respect if once laid aside. This, I was sorry to learn, is but too frequently the case in the Egyptian naval service;—the officers at one moment expecting their subordinates to execute the most servile offices for them, the next, will be perhaps hugging their pipe-bearers round the neck.

The dress of the officers, as well as that of the sailors, is provided by the Viceroy; that is to say, the scarlet jacket, which is the only expensive part of it, and which is bedizened with gold lace, very much in the style of a showman's at Pidcock's. On becoming unserviceable, it is given into store, and a new one issued. The difference of ranks is denoted by a diamond, gold, or silver device worn on the breast.

The pay is remarkably good, and, what is of more consequence, is pretty regularly issued. A captain of a line-of-battle ship receives three hundred dollars a month; the other ranks less in proportion; the petty officers from one hundred and seventy-five to two hundred piastres (£1 19s. to £2 4s.); sailors from fifteen to fifty-five piastres.

The expenses of the officers are very trifling. There being no mess on board any of the ships, each eats his pillau when and how it best pleases him. Amongst them are many Franks, chiefly French, but (excepting in the medical department) not one Englishman.

The Egyptian navy in 1834 was placed under the command of Moutouch Pasha, promoted from vice-admiral. He has the character of being a very different man from his predecessor, Osman Pasha, who, deserting the Egyptian service in 1833, added the crime of treachery to the faults of drunkenness, ignorance, and cowardice, by which he was previously distinguished.

The Admiral Pasha is assisted by a council, consisting of the vice-admiral of the fleet, Monsieur Besson, (a Frenchman, who is said to have projected a plan for the escape of Bonaparte from St. Helena) Cerisy Bey, the naval architect before-mentioned, and two other members, who are Turks.

The Egyptian navy is by no means to be despised, although still far from being as efficient as it is capable of being rendered. This state of efficiency it never will attain until some of the vessels are officered entirely, in the first instance, by Europeans—no matter whether English or French, but, to avoid any national jealousy, they should be all of

the same nation in each vessel. A proper state of discipline might then be established, and a wholesome distribution of justice maintained with firmness, but, tempered with a proper degree of lenity, would soon bring the Arab sailors even to *like* their profession.

The ships are not, generally speaking, handsome, being very large and unwieldy, particularly for young sailors to manage; indeed, the *Mesr* is so large, that there is not a sufficient depth of water in the channel to allow of her going to sea with guns and stores on board; she therefore remains in port, as a kind of guard-ship. They are considered dull sailers, which may probably arise from the coppering on their bottoms being constantly out of repair—a fault occasioned by the sheets not being sufficiently thick when first put on.

The sailors are tolerably smart in ascending the shrouds, handling the sails, &c.; indeed, quite as much so as could be expected from any men wearing large breeches and slippers. They have the fault, officers as well as men,

of fancying that they have already arrived at the acmé of perfection in their profession, and I have known instances of their severely criticising the unseamanlike proceedings of British ships of war.

The Viceroy, when residing at Alexandria, usually passes much of his time in the Naval Arsenal, inspecting in person the different works in progress. An apartment has been fitted up there for his accommodation, in which he is in the habit of transacting his daily business. His palace is situated on the peninsula to the north of the city, and commands a fine view of the harbour, as well as over the sea. On a sand hill in its vicinity, is a semaphore, which communicates with others in the direction of both Rosetta and Cairo. To the latter place, his commands may be conveyed by this means in forty-five minutes.

The Seraglio consists merely of a large reception-room, or divan, an equally spacious ante-room, and a few small apartments for attendants, and has nothing about it to gratify

curiosity. A large building, about a hundred yards distant, contains much, however, to excite it; its jalousied windows, high enclosing walls, and numerous sentinels, pointing it out as the terrestrial paradise of the wives of the vicegerent of the prophet's viceroy.

There is yet another palace close by, which serves for the accommodation of visitors of distinction. Attached to it is a bathing and boat-house, from whence his highness often embarks to visit the ships lying in the harbour.

The garrison of Alexandria consists usually of from five to six thousand men, infantry and artillery. A large portion of this force is quartered in barracks within the city; the rest are distributed amongst the various forts, or encamped outside the walls of the Viceroy's palace.

The Lazaretto (for the Musselman ruler of Egypt has so far given up the doctrine of predestination as to take measures to prevent the spread of the plague) is situated on the shore of the eastern harbour, outside the walls

of the city. It is a fact worthy of observation, that this establishment, although it had existed but five years previously to 1834, had, during that period, saved the country on six occasions from the ravages of the plague;—that is to say, well authenticated cases of that dreadful malady have been treated that number of times in the lazaretto of Alexandria, between the time of its establishment and the year above mentioned. During the past year, Egypt has again been desolated by that scourge, which I fear, where climate is favourable to its propagation, will, at times, baffle every precaution. It is calculated to have carried off two hundred thousand souls,—upwards of a twentieth part of the entire population of the country!

Beyond the walls, at the s. w. end of the city, is the basin at the head of the new canal, communicating with the Nile, at Atfieh. For the benefits resulting from this work the country is also indebted to Mohammed Ali. It received the name of Mahmoudieh, in compliment to the reigning sultan.

The country round Alexandria is by no means the barren sandy flat one is led to expect. On the contrary, it is pleasingly undulated, and, in winter, its surface presents a verdant covering of young corn, clover, &c., that reaches from the margin of Lake Mareotis to the very gates of the city.

Along the banks of the Mahmoudieh Canal, many gardens have lately been planted, and country houses erected, to the quiet enjoyment of which the wealthier inhabitants retire during the summer months, and the orange groves in which they are embosomed are already sufficiently umbrageous to allow the good Frank citizens to ruralize under them on Sundays and *fête* days, without risk of *coups de soleil*.

The society of Alexandria consists almost *exclusively* of the consular circle. It contains, of course, many agreeable and well-informed persons; and travellers, provided with letters of introduction, easily obtain the *entrée*; but the mercantile class, which, at the present day, is, with few exceptions, composed of a

very second-rate order of the profession, is by no means noted for hospitality.

Amongst the public amusements of the place may be reckoned frequent amateur concerts ; a theatre, where French plays are performed, and subscription balls, to which all persons appear to be admitted, without distinction of caste, religion, or politics, the maze of the waltz mixing most heterodoxically together Papists, Protestants, Greeks, Armenians, Jews, and Mohammedans ; and it is by no means unusual to see even a Bim Bashee of Mohammed Ali's navy *galloping* (maugre the impediments of capacious nether garments and slippers) with the bright-eyed daughter of her most Catholic Majesty's consul.

At one of these "*réunions*," at which I "assisted," such was the variety of character and costume, that it was with difficulty I could persuade myself I was not at a real fancy dress ball. Indeed, the delusion was rendered perfect by the truly ludicrous attempts of the Franks to make themselves at home in the Turkish costume, and of the

Greeks to appear at their ease in that of the Franks. Some of the chaperons had all the appearance, in complexion as well as dress, of having been just released from a mummy state, and arrived from the catacombs in their ancient Egyptian costume. There were, however, many very pretty girls in the room, though, with but one or two exceptions, all were badly dressed, and I should say that a Parisian *maître-de-danse*, (I believe, by the way, that they are called *professeurs* now) and a *couturière*, would find it to their advantage to undertake a voyage to Alexandria.

A gaming-table was the centre of attraction for many of the male kind, amongst whom, judging from agitated countenances and nervous wrists, I concluded there was some high play.

CHAPTER III.

Preparations for Travelling in the Delta—Choice of a Dress—Dragoman—Egyptian Money—Road to Rosetta—Canopic branch of the Nile—Dreary Journey—Description of the City of Rosetta—The Market—Fruits—Fortifications—Account of the Cotton Manufactories—The Tannery—The Viceregal Smithy—Rice Mills—Decadence of the Trade of Rosetta—Gun-boats—Barracks—Voyage up the Nile—Friendly Reception by the Sheik of Mehalet Abou Ali—Village of Kafr Majar—Scenery of the River.

AFTER a sojourn of a few weeks at Alexandria, I took my departure on a tour through the Delta, being desirous of seeing the state of cultivation in this, the most productive portion of Egypt, during the winter months.

The preparations for travelling in this part of the country are soon completed; a tent and a small canteen, containing a supply of spirits, being all the additions that need be made to the usual light baggage of an old traveller.

Provisions are to be procured every where;

and a gun, excepting for the amusement it affords, is perfectly useless; for the country has been thoroughly cleared of the bands of wandering Arabs that formerly infested it, and the European costume is, in most cases, sufficiently imposing, to ensure the civility and attention of the local authorities. It is as well, however, to be provided with a *teskere* (or passport) to remove any difficulties that money alone cannot at all times overcome.

With respect to a travelling dress, the Turkish, or rather Nizam, which is a variation of it, is that which is generally recommended; but, I must confess, that after some personal experience in the matter, I would strongly advise travellers to save themselves the expence of buying, and bore of wearing, this cumbersome attire.

I always found that the usual European dress, though certainly neither handsome nor picturesque, was treated with great respect, and its comfort is universally allowed. Now, nothing can possibly be more incon-

venient than the Turkish costume : the enormous breeches are bad either for walking or riding : the dozen folds of Cashmere wound round the waist are, in that hot climate, likely to prove the wearer's *winding sheet*. The turboush (for turbans are no longer fashionable,) affords no protection to the eyes ; the feet are cramped by being encumbered with two pair of slippers ; and, to complete the list of absurdities, a crooked Damascus scimitar must dangle at the side, threatening at every moment to inflict a blow upon its owner's shins, or to cause his involuntary prostration on the pavement. I believe, however, that the gratification of wearing this inconvenient implement of war is the great charm that this barbarous costume possesses in the eyes of Cockney travellers.

I was accompanied only by a friend (one of my shipmates from Malta) and a native servant, who spoke English well, and could manage to make himself understood in Italian.

A Dragoman is generally considered a ne-

cessary attendant on a person who does not speak the language of the country, but I have every reason to believe that the mediation of this personage does not tend to lighten the expenses of travelling; and I soon found that there were no difficulties to encounter but such as could be overcome through the medium of a servant, and that not the slightest objection was ever made to his appearing as an interpreter, even in the most august presences.

The money of Egypt is so simple in its divisions as to occasion but little trouble. It consists of pieces of *four* and *nine* piastres* in gold; and of a silver coinage of single piastres and minute fractional parts. The money of the country is, of course, the best to be provided with; indeed, excepting at the large towns, is absolutely necessary, as none other has currency. At Cairo, and the seaport towns, foreign coin may be exchanged to advantage, particularly English sovereigns, Turkish sequins, and Spanish dollars.

* The Egyptian piastre was, in 1834, worth about $2\frac{2}{3}$ d.

The expense of travelling is very trifling; the charge per diem for a horse, mule, or dromedary being about sixteen piastres; for a camel twelve, and an ass four. It is always as well to have a written agreement drawn up, and to hold out the promise of a "*back-schis*" for faithful service—a word of wonderfully persuasive powers with an Arab—answering to the Italian *buona mano*, but generally producing better effects.

We were advised to use asses for our own transport, and camels for that of our baggage, and, whenever the road is heavy, or luggage weighty, I would give others the same counsel; but, in most cases, horses and mules, or dromedaries, are to be preferred.

The road to Rosetta (whither we first directed our asses' heads) runs for the first twelve miles along a neck of land that divides the lakes Mareotis and Madieh from the sea. The Aboukir road strikes off to the left at about three miles from Alexandria, and near the spot where the glorious battle of the 21st of March, 1801, was fought.

Although the road we pursued is pretty close to the sea, yet a range of low hills borders the coast so as completely to conceal it from view, until arrived abreast of Aboukir, when that town is seen about two miles off, jutting into the blue Mediterranean, and occupying the last visible point of the calcareous ledge, which, stretching out to the north-east from the Lybian chain of mountains, forms the breakwater that saves Egypt from destruction.*

The road soon reaches the shore of the Bay of Aboukir, and, keeping close under an embankment that has been thrown up to oppose

* This opinion is at variance with the hypothesis of the Delta being a *gift of the Nile*. I am disposed, however, to say that, but for this ledge of rock, the greater part of the Delta would have disappeared in a similar way to the portions now covered by Lakes Edko, Bourlos, and Mensaleh. During the prevalence of the Etesian winds (which sometimes blow for weeks together) a heavy sea constantly breaks upon the coast of Egypt, and the natural dyke protecting the most exposed part of it from the attacks of this persevering enemy, may be said to save the whole from being *taken in flank*;—where it ceases, the Bay of Aboukir and Lake Edko have been formed. The Rosetta branch of the Nile acts as a second embankment; but, to the eastward of that, the sea has again broken in, and formed another immense lake, and yet a third beyond the Damietta branch of the river.

the encroachments of the sea, is washed on the other side by the brackish water of Lake Madieh.

The dyke is roughly built of stone, secured by rows of piles. It was undergoing repair, and is likely to offer a more effectual barrier than heretofore to the waves of the Mediterranean. The part which was cut through by the British army is again built up; and, about a mile beyond the spot, the road leaves the sea-shore, reaching, at the end of four more, the old Canopic mouth of the Nile (communicating now merely with Lake Edko.)

To cross this, there is an ill-constructed ferry-boat; and, on the right bank, a miserable hovel, called a caravansera. From hence, for fourteen miles, the road is by the sea-shore (a heavy sandy beach) passing about half-way the mosque and mud huts composing the village of Edko.

Beyond that place, the sea is rather above the level of the adjacent country, which a high sandy beach alone saves from inundation. At length the road, quitting the sea-

shore, crosses a dreary waste, which is so frequently laid under water, that it has been found necessary to mark its direction, for about three miles, by a line of brick obelisks. A hard, sandy footing is then again obtained, on which half an hour's riding brings you to the gates of Rosetta.

The road across the flat is dangerous when inundated, on account of the many quicksands with which it is bordered. The water was a foot deep when we passed, in consequence of the prevalence of a N.W. wind; and, owing to the darkness of the night, we missed one of the marks, and got into a quagmire, where we fully expected to have had the pleasure of awaiting the rising of the sun.

Fortunately, our animals were more sagacious than their drivers, and brought us safely out of this Charybdis. A Scylla, however, awaited us; for, on arriving at the gate of Rosetta, we found it closed for the night; and although the key—*Backschis*—after some persuasion, opened the wicket, still that would only admit unloaded animals.

In spite of all our exertions, *mashallahs* ! &c., the real key could not be made to perform its office, by unlocking the main gate. It became, therefore, necessary to unload, and squeeze the baggage animals through the wicket, and then replace their burthens on their wearied backs.

The talismanic *backschis* again stood our friend, by preventing a very minute custom-house examination of our effects. Nevertheless, after a long day's ride, the delay in a drizzling rain was sufficiently vexatious ; and it was with no slight satisfaction that we remounted our asses, cheered by our guide's assurance that we might look forward to the comforts of an Italian "*Locanda*."

After groping our way in the dark through every street in the town, we found, alas ! that the house we were in search of, and had at last discovered, had been shut up a fortnight, and learnt at the same time that Rosetta afforded no other place of public accommodation !

Few but those who have felt such miseries

can form an idea of the wretchedness of our situation. Tired, wet through, and half famished—the night so dark that we could not see a yard before us—in mud up to the ankles, and not a soul to give us any information—we were about to bivouac in utter despair—when, awakened no doubt by certain uncontrollable English words, to which we gave utterance, a head, clothed in a white cotton nightcap, (I shall ever hereafter love the dear, simple, unbecoming gear,) was protruded from a small window in a house adjoining the *ex-locanda*, at the door of which we had been thundering, and a voice in dulcet Neapolitan accents demanded “*Cosa diavolo volet’ à quest’ or’ ?*” Our interrogator turned out to be an honest (a rare quality considering his country) coffee-house keeper. Without much solicitation, he charitably undertook to accommodate us for the night, offering to divide (I should rather say *distribute*) his bed between my companion and myself.

To satisfy our other wants, he produced, in an incredibly short space of time, a jug of

mulled wine, with an accompaniment of omelet, stewed meat, and Bologna sausage, into all of which it would have been impertinent, situated as we were, to have inquired whether more than the fitting proportion of garlic had been admitted—even had our hunger allowed of the delay.

Thanking our stars for the lucky chance that had befallen us, we retired to our “*shakes down*” in the loft; the worthy man’s bed affording us a mattrass each. Lulled by the enchanting hum of myriads of mosquitoes, we soon fell asleep, to wake to the sad conviction that insects, as well as human beings, can be hungry.

Rosetta, (properly, I believe, Rosetto,) in Arabic, Al Raschid, is a mass of ruined houses, covering a considerable extent of ground on the left bank of the western branch of the Nile, which we here saw for the first time. In its best days, it must have been a handsome town. The houses are large, lofty, and solidly built of brick. It is said to have contained fifteen thousand inhabitants.

At the present day, its population does not amount to half that number ; and, in the whole place, there are not a dozen buildings in a tolerable state of repair, even including the habitations of the governor, public officers, and Frank *employés*, and the barracks lately constructed for the troops.

In fact, nothing bearing the semblance of a town can well be more miserable. It may be called the mummy of a once flourishing city—one half the houses are in ruins, the other inhabited by paupers. The streets are narrow, unpaved, filthy beyond description, and after rain, (which during the winter falls pretty nearly every day,) almost impassable. Even the tombs and burying grounds, usually preserved with great care by Mohammedans, are dilapidated and neglected.

A letter, with which I had fortunately been furnished, was the means of procuring us, after much search, two wretched rooms and a kitchen in an uninhabited house. A Franciscan monk charitably supplied us with bedsteads and bedding ; for we could not think of

any longer keeping our kind host of the café from the enjoyment of his mosquito preserve.

The market of Rosetta is ill supplied with every thing but fruit, which is plentiful and cheap, being produced in the extensive gardens by which the town is surrounded. The vegetation is very luxuriant, but the enclosing walls partake of the general dilapidation connected with the place.

The fruits, though fine to the sight, do not attain the flavour of the same species in other climates. The citrons, lemons, and oranges, for instance, are by no means so good as those of Spain. The limes and bananas are inferior to those of the West Indies; and even the dates, the *staple* of the country, are not to be compared with those of Western Africa. The nights, probably, are too cold; and the vegetation, forced on by abundant irrigation, may possibly be too rapid. The vegetables, though large, are tasteless from the same cause.

As a fortress, Rosetta is quite contemptible. Protected on two sides by an old brick wall,

its defence, to the north, is entrusted to a deep muddy ditch, which, having, however, a considerable extent of gardens and orchards in its front, that can be inundated at pleasure, may be looked upon as the least assailable part of the *enceinte*. Along the bank of the river (the remaining side) it is quite open. The walls are about two feet thick, and eighteen high ; but the sand has, in many places, drifted against them, so as to form a fine glacis to their very summit. They are very irregular, loopholed throughout for musketry, and flanked here and there by bastions, mounting a few honeycombed guns on rotten carriages.

The city contains two cotton manufactories, a tannery, a large smithy, and numerous rice mills, all established by Mohammed Ali. The cotton manufactories are no longer in the thriving condition they were some years since, the foreigners originally employed as foremen having been discharged to make way for natives of the country. In this instance, the Viceroy has acted rather hastily ; for, although it

was certainly desirable to get rid, as soon as possible, of the foreign adventurers, whose ill conduct and exorbitant demands he was for a time obliged to submit to, yet his own subjects, having merely learnt how to work the machinery used in the factories, without acquiring the art of repairing it, it has, from long and constant use and neglect, become almost (I speak only of that at Rosetta) unserviceable.

The cotton canvass made here is of various qualities, some being for the use of the navy for sails, &c. ; others, for clothing the troops. The worst kinds, I was informed, were for exportation.

The machinery is put in motion by oxen ; the shuttles are thrown by hand, and men only are employed in the factories. The pay of the workmen varies from 20 paras (half a piastre) to $2\frac{1}{2}$ piastres a day ; those on the former rate receiving, also, a portion of food consisting of beans and rice.

The tannery is under the direction of Monsieur Rossi, a French Smyrniote. It is a large

establishment, and in full activity, employing upwards of two hundred persons. The process adopted here differs little from that followed in England; the hides (buffalo, ox, and goat) when tanned and dressed, are sent to Cairo, where they are used in the manufacture of saddlery, shoes, knapsacks, and soldiers' accoutrements. The fragments and trimmings of the skins are dried and exported to Europe, to make glue. The oil used in dressing the skins is brought from Trieste, but this expensive article is likely soon to be abundantly produced in Egypt.

The wages paid to the workmen vary from 40 to 80 piastres a month. I had an opportunity of seeing them returning home from their work, and was struck with the great advantages they appeared to possess over the field labourers, being all decently clothed and shod, and looking well fed and contented.

The Viceregal smithy is as large and almost as well conducted as any I ever saw. Some eighty furnaces were blazing, and a din of hammers ringing, that reminded me of those

in our own arsenals during the war. The workmen (all Arabs) appeared expert at their business; and the nails, spikes, bolts, rings, and other articles for the naval service, were very respectably turned out. Anchors, also, are made here, but it is by no means a judicious choice of a place for the manufacture of so weighty an article.

The rice-mills, of which there are twenty-five or twenty-six, are, with one exception, worked by oxen, and are of the rudest and most clumsy construction that could by any possibility be contrived. The one excepted is moved by steam, and is placed under the direction of an Englishman, who asserts that it does more work than ten of those in which cattle are employed. I fancy, however, that, what with his high pay and the expense of fuel and grease, it is worked at about twenty times the cost of the others. The difference in order and cleanliness was, it must be admitted, fully in that ratio in favour of steam and English management.

The rice is of a bad quality, and is mixed

with a large proportion of *salt*. They told me that this was done to *make it keep*, but I fancy there is another reason, namely, to make it weigh—salt being a cheaper article in Egypt than rice. It is principally exported to Russia. The rice grounds are mostly between Rosetta and the mouth of the river, and in the direction of Damietta: they can be laid under water at pleasure, being much below even the winter level of the Nile.

The rise of the river at Rosetta, during the period of inundation, never exceeds five feet; in fact, six inches more would lay the greater part of the town under water. The width of the stream is about six hundred yards, its course slow, and water muddy. A sandy bar at its mouth impedes, at all times, the entrance of large vessels—a circumstance which alone will prevent Rosetta's ever carrying on a flourishing foreign trade.

The present fallen state of the place is to be attributed to the opening of the Mahmoudieh Canal, which has made Fouah (a town higher up the Nile) the *entrepôt* for

merchandize between Cairo and Alexandria, instead of Rosetta. It is by no means just to attach blame to Mohammed Ali for this ;—it was a great object to obtain as quick and safe a communication as possible, between Upper Egypt and Alexandria ;—the only port from whence the produce of the country could commodiously be exported. This has, in a great measure, been effected by the new canal ; and if Rosetta has suffered in consequence, other places have benefited beyond all proportion.

Whilst I was at Rosetta, a great number of small craft, laden with fruit and other perishable articles for Alexandria, were lying in the river with their cargoes rotting, from having been detained for three weeks by a heavy surf on the bar at the river's mouth—a fact, which of itself shows the necessity of having an inland water communication.

The establishment of manufactories at Rosetta was an attempt at compensation for the injury done to its trade by the opening of the new canal ; but it was unwise, to say the least

of it ; for, why carry raw cotton to Rosetta, to be manufactured into canvass and cloth, that has afterwards to be transported for use to Cairo and Alexandria ? — and why make anchors at a port, that cannot possibly be entered by the ships for which they are required ?

Rosetta is not destined ever again to become a place of commercial importance. It is well suited for a depôt for grain, being in the midst of rice plantations ; and, as that is generally shipped for Syria, the Archipelago, and Black Sea, in small vessels, which can at most times get out of the river, it is likely always to divide that branch of trade with Damietta, and it will continue for some time longer to export fruit ; but, beyond these articles, the commerce of Rosetta may be considered at an end.

From the town, a road leads to the mouth of the river (Borgaz), passing through groves of date trees and plantations of rice ; excepting after rain, it is tolerably good, but may at all times be laid under water. The dis-

tance is about six miles. About half-way is the fort of St. Julian, situated on the bank of the river. It is a square, bastioned work, of small dimensions, but regular construction, mounting some guns at the salient angles and faces of the bastions; whilst the flanks are pierced only (*en casemates*) for musketry.

About three-quarters of a mile beyond the fort is a cluster of windmills, thirteen in number, and a large storehouse for grain, forming an excellent landmark for bewildered merchant vessels.

From the windmills, a sandy tongue stretches for a couple of miles into the sea, and at its extreme point is situated a castle, commanding the entrance of the river. A similar sandy tongue pens in the stream on the opposite side; and between the two points in which they terminate is the bar already mentioned, on which there is at most times a heavy swell, and rarely a greater depth than fourteen feet of water.

There are several gun-boats stationed at Rosetta for the protection of the navigation,

as well as to assist in the defence of the river, but there is no sort of dock for effecting repairs. Djerms, canges, and other boats of traffic used on the Nile, are, nevertheless, built here on the bank of the river.

A mere handful of men composed the garrison of Rosetta, during my visit; there are, however, two large barracks, standing a little apart from the town, capable, in case of need, of containing three or four thousand men.

The continuance of a tempestuous north-west wind, causing the weather on the coast to be rainy and disagreeable, and the beach (the only *road* for the greater part of the way to Damietta) to be heavy and partially flooded, we determined, after staying a few days at Rosetta, to ascend the river, until we could gain some practicable road by which to traverse the Delta, and so reach the eastern branch of the Nile.

We, accordingly, made an agreement for a boat, and started late in the evening for Mehalet Abou Ali, a village situated on the right bank of the river, from whence we were told

we could proceed in the way we wished. A favouring breeze brought us there by day-break, and, landing immediately, we presented ourselves to the Sheik, requesting him, in virtue of the *teskere* with which we were furnished by the Governor of Alexandria, to aid and assist us in our progress to Damietta.

The Sheik received us *en grand Divan*, declared that nothing could possibly render him so happy as to be serviceable to us, and that every animal in the village should be placed at our disposal. He advised us strongly, at the same time, to proceed some miles higher up the river, before we attempted to cross the Delta, stating that the road from his village to Mehalet el Kebeer (whither we wished to go) was still partly inundated, and dangerous to travel by.

Recollecting our disaster on the way to Rosetta, we determined on taking his advice, although, from what I afterwards saw of the country and of these people's distrust, I believe the reason he assigned was a mere pretext to get rid of us ; so, after being drenched

with some villanously bad coffee, we made our salaam, and re-embarked in our boat. The village is miserable in the extreme: we could get no supplies at it beyond hard-boiled eggs and bad bread.

After making a fresh agreement with our Reis, (no easy matter, seeing that he had us somewhat in his power) we again set sail; and, in about half an hour, passed the village of Kafr Majar, where the Viceroy has lately built a country-house, at which he is in the habit of occasionally passing a few days on his way up and down the river. It is, also, one of the depôts for storing the government grain; and has, altogether, a thriving appearance, when compared with the other villages along the banks. These succeed each other very rapidly, and, though composed chiefly of mere mud hovels, bespeak a very abundant population.

The banks of the river are planted chiefly with corn and cotton. A few stunted trees grow along the edges of the irrigating ducts, but the monotony of this flat scenery is very

wearying. There is nothing whatever, save the minarets with which the Delta is studded, to break the line of this vegetable horizon.

The river itself presents more variety: the passage of boats is constant, and the rig of many of them extremely ragged and picturesque. A novel kind of fishing-boat, or rather raft, especially excited my admiration; it was composed of some dozens of empty gourds lashed together, and decked over with canes; and this fragile vessel, not more than eight feet long and four wide, carried two men, with their oars and small net, with the greatest ease.

CHAPTER IV.

Arrival at Kafr Zayad — Interview with the Governor — Travelling Miseries — Fair at Biar — Journey across the Delta — Inhabitants of the Country — Situation of Birmeh — Road to Tantah — Some Account of that Place — Dancing Girls — Fairs — Mehalet el Kebeer — Canal of Samanoud — Description of the Town of Samanoud — View of Damietta — Village of Sumanieh — Houses of Damietta — Trade of the City — Mixed Population — Visit to the Governor — The Cotton Manufactory — Defences of the River — Lazaretto — Signor Serur, H. B. M.'s Vice-consul.

At eight o'clock in the evening, we reached Kafr Zayad, a place of some importance, containing large store-houses for grain and cotton, and considered worthy of the honour of possessing a governor. I forthwith landed, and proceeded to pay my respects to his excellency, whom I found seated with a large party at supper. Pointing to a vacant space at his right hand, he requested me to sit down and partake of the banquet. The former I acceded to in the best cross-legged manner I could; the latter I excused myself from, on the plea of having just dined.

The repast consisted of several messes of meat and fowls, served up on wooden platters on a circular metal table, elevated about a foot from the ground. The governor, holding a huge radish in the left hand, (at which he took an occasional bite) helped himself indiscriminately out of the various dishes with his right, and appeared to act as *flügelman* to the rest of the company.

The supper being over, an attendant brought a basin and ewer, poured water over the fingers of his excellency, who then filling both hands took a gulp therefrom, and rinsed his mouth in the happily-become-obsolete English fashion. Drying his hands and mouth with a napkin, he turned round to me and proceeded to business, which was discussed and settled over coffee and chibouques.

The Sheik promised to provide horses for ourselves, and a camel for our baggage, by daybreak, to convey us to Tintah; and expressing his love for and admiration of the English nation collectively, and of myself in particular, begged me to give a bottle of wine

to a Levantine friend of his—one of the supper party, who, I must do the justice to say, looked perfectly innocent of making the request.

Declining his excellency's polite offer of a share of his carpet for the night, and expressing my fears that our light French wine would not suit his friend's palate, I rose and took my leave, much comforted with the assurance of having taken his fancy. Half an hour after I had composed myself to sleep on board the boat, I was awakened by the Levantine gentleman, who, looking very sheepish, said he had come for the promised bottle of wine.

In the morning a camel and two horses, without saddles or bridles, were brought for us. I remonstrated with the *sais* (groom) against the bare backs of the horses—not being yet accustomed to such a hard fate; but it was to no purpose; so, after much disputation, I went off to the governor to make my complaint. He expressed great regret at the want of saddles in his *arron-*

dissement, but said I should have the loan of his own, the only one in the village. It was sent accordingly, but, on attempting to mount the restive brute on whose back the gaudy affair was placed, a strong development of the organ of combativeness exhibited itself. In the heat of our contest, the solitary girth (on which depended my hope of surmounting him) gave way, and the pugnacious animal, leaving me in the mire, scampered off to give battle to his companion, dragging at his heels the splendid saddle and caparisons of the Viceroy's commandant of Kafr Zayad.

After much difficulty, the furious beasts were separated, and, finding the saddle considerably the worse for the encounter, and being apprehensive of a renewal of the combat on the road, I sent both horse and trappings back to the governor with my compliments, determined to avoid further delay by walking.

At about a mile* from Kafr Zayad, we

* It may, perhaps, be considered that I have entered into unnecessarily minute details in stating the distance from place to place, the various canals crossed, &c.; but I have done so conceiving that

arrived at the canal of Galgamoun, where, in consequence of the throng of people going to a fair at the neighbouring town of Biar, we again experienced a tedious detention.

Biar we reached at the end of another mile and a half. It is a large walled place, sheltered by groves of date and orange trees, and encircled by pools of water. Along its eastern side passes a canal, about eighty feet wide, which is crossed by means of a ferry-boat. The fair was principally for the sale of cattle, oxen, buffaloes, sheep, goats, &c.; but there were the usual glass-beads and trinkets, that win the sweet smiles of the swarthy Egyptian *fair sex*, and some few cotton goods of native manufacture.

It afforded us an excellent opportunity of seeing the inhabitants of the country, as well as of forming some idea of the amount of its population. Though yet early in the day,

such information furnished the best data on which to form an estimate, both of the population of the country, and of the additional means with which it has of late years been furnished for improving and increasing the extent of its cultivation. I imagined, also, that such information might be found useful to future travellers.

many thousands of persons had already assembled, and the roads in every direction were thronged with fresh comers.

Many of my preconceived notions of the poverty and misery of the fellahs were, I must confess, considerably shaken; and the number of *young* men assembled here from the distance of only a few leagues round (when I had been led to suppose every man capable of bearing arms had been pressed for the military service) absolutely astonished me. There were a great many females in the crowd, but whether old or young, handsome or ugly, would be difficult to say, all their faces being partially concealed.

After crossing the before-mentioned canal, the road to Tantah, which hitherto had run nearly east, inclines rather to the north, towards Miniet Biar, (a mosque, and some score of mud huts, about a quarter of a mile from Biar) and then resuming its former direction, in three miles reaches Birmeh. This is a large town, partly built on a rising ground, and surrounded with groves of date and other trees.

From thence, the road turns to the east-south-east for a short distance, inclines again more to the eastward, and, in two miles, reaches Mehalet Mahoun. The road all the way from Birmeh to this place keeps along the bank of a small canal that has lately been cut, but is not practicable for boats.

Mehalet Mahoun is a large ruinous place, surrounded, as usual, with pools of water and date-trees. The population of the village appears to be principally employed in spinning flax, of which large quantities are grown in the vicinity.

The canal of Chebin (recently deepened and rendered navigable) is about half a mile to the northward and eastward of the place, winding round two sides of it. It may be crossed either above or below the village, the road by the upper or southern ferry being rather the shorter of the two to Tintah; the distance to which is about three miles.

Tintah, though not a large, is a compactly-built town, enclosed by an old wall of sun-burnt bricks. It stands, as compared with the

circumjacent country, on a considerable elevation, that is to say, it is somewhere about fifty feet above the level of the Delta. This mound appears to be formed of the *débris* of some ancient city, as the exposed parts show the marks of old brick walls, and various strata of mould, rubbish, and filth, the accumulation of ages. A wide canal passes along the eastern side of the town, over which there is a stone bridge of two arches, that impedes the navigation of the stream, excepting for small boats.

On the western side, another canal (only about two feet deep) connects the former with the canal of Chebin, tending to equalize the level of the water of the two streams, and facilitate the irrigation of the intermediate portion of the Delta. A string of pools encircles the town to the southward between the two canals, so as almost to insulate it. These were probably formed by the excavation of earth to make bricks and pottery.

A little art would make Tantah a very strong post, which its central position seems

to render desirable. A more wretched looking place it would be difficult to conceive. The houses are built of the same sun-baked bricks as compose the walls, and are mostly of two stories ; the bazaars are, nevertheless, tolerably good, and the market is excellent.

The inhabitants, who may possibly amount to five thousand, are chiefly occupied in agriculture, but there is a large manufactory of pottery, and the females employ themselves in spinning.

Tantah is celebrated for the mosque of Seid el Bedouin ; for the fairs annually held there, and for its awalies and ghazies, (singing and dancing girls). Of the latter, little need be said but that their movements are rather disgusting than graceful ; that they use hennah very freely ; colour their eyelids black ; are mostly tattoued, and seldom refuse brandy.

There are three fairs held here during the year. The first takes place ten days after the Rhamadan, the second six months afterwards, and the third late in the autumn,

but this last is not a very considerable one. That immediately succeeding the Rhamadan is the best for making purchases, though not so numerously attended as the summer fair, at which two hundred thousand persons are collected from all parts of the East;—merchants, with their wares, from Constantinople, Smyrna, Persia, and Arabia; married ladies from every harem in Egypt, to implore the patron saint of the place to make them fruitful, (to whose supplications he is seldom said to turn a deaf ear); and dancing girls, to beseech him to avert any such misfortune;—jugglers, conjurors, rogues, and idlers, make up the motley groupe.

The display of jewelry and rich dresses is described as quite extraordinary, and the scene altogether as being gay in the extreme: the numerous visiters all dwelling under various coloured tents, pitched round the walls of the town. Indeed, I know not where else such a host could dwell; for, although, during my visit, the place was free from any throng of strangers, I had great difficulty in finding a

tenantable house to shelter my companion and self for the night. The person sent by the governor to find us quarters most probably thought us very difficult to please, although we only bargained for a clean floor; beds, of course, were quite out of the question.

On continuing our journey the following day, we found the country to the eastward of Tantah by no means so highly cultivated as that we had already passed through. It is neither so thickly studded with villages, nor so well intersected with irrigating canals. The general level of the Delta is obviously higher towards the Damietta branch of the Nile, which accounts for this inferiority. The productions are the same, chiefly cotton and corn.

We directed our course towards Mehalet el Kebeer, the road to which place passes through the villages of Ragdi, Shabshir, Mehalet Rogh, and Saft. At the two last-named places are ferries across navigable canals (ninety feet wide), directed on Kafr-cheik. Saft is a somewhat better village than

most of those we had hitherto seen—that is to say, some new mud tents were erecting.

About two miles from that place, the road reaches the great canal of Samanoud, which is one hundred and fifty feet in width. Keeping along its left bank for four miles, we arrived at a ferry, by which the direct road from Tantah to Samanoud crosses it; that by way of Mehalet Kebeer, continuing for two miles further in the original direction, leaving the bank of the great canal, (which here bends more to the eastward) but following the course of a smaller stream that communicates with the town.

Mehalet el Kebeer is a very considerable place, containing large cotton manufactories, government corn stores, a palace, barracks, and numerous mosques. The population is estimated at eight thousand souls. It is better built than most Egyptian towns, and, viewed from a distance, its modern buildings, groves of trees, and gardens, have a very agreeable appearance, and make a favourable impression on the traveller.

The total journey from Tantah to Mehalet el Kebeer is nineteen miles ; from thence to Samanoud, four. About half way, the road crosses the canal of Samanoud (why so called it is difficult to say, as it has no communication with that town,) by a new stone bridge of nine arches ; and, on the right bank, rejoins the direct road from Tantah to Samanoud.

Samanoud is situated on the left bank of the Damietta branch of the Nile, about four miles below Abusir—the ancient Busiris. It possesses a considerable commerce, and, although composed, like Tantah, of houses of half-burnt bricks, yet they are in a rather better state of repair, and it contains some manufactories of cotton cloths, which also help to give the place a thriving look.

The houses of public accommodation wore, however, by no means an inviting appearance ; and we considered ourselves fortunate in not being obliged to have recourse to them for a night's lodging, as our servant succeeded, without much difficulty, in procuring a boat ; notwithstanding the absence

of the governor, whose influence is generally necessary to bring about a reasonable adjustment of a contract. The Reis no doubt made a good thing of us, though we paid him but fifty-five piastres, (about twelve shillings) with a *backschis* in perspective, to convey us to Damietta.

The eastern channel of the Nile is narrower than the Rosetta branch, but deeper, and less obstructed with islands ; its immediate banks are lower, the adjacent country neither so highly cultivated nor so thickly inhabited.

The towns of Mansourah and Fareskour are the only places of consideration through which we passed. To the sentimental, a visit to the prison of Louis IX. of France may be interesting, but I confess my admiration of the sainted monarch was not of an order to induce me to undertake the pilgrimage.

The appearance of Damietta, on approaching it by the river, is pleasing enough after the mud-built towns of the Delta. A small expenditure of whitewash gives it a Christian look of cleanliness and comfort, in spite of its

numerous crumbling minarets. The flags, too, of the different European Consuls, displayed on the tops of their respective houses, and the bustle of a thriving commerce, indicated by wharfs lined with shipping and covered with merchandize, tend still further to enliven it. The city stands on the right bank of the stream, which, bending abruptly to the west, gives it the form of a crescent. On the opposite bank of the Nile, is the suburb, or village of Sumanieh. Damietta is a perfectly open and unprotected town, and I should say covers altogether more ground than the actual city of Alexandria. It certainly ranks next to that place in importance and population, and may, therefore, be considered the third city of modern Egypt. It is estimated to contain twenty-five thousand souls, which amount is usually increased to twenty-nine or thirty thousand during the period of getting in the rice crops.

The houses in the interior of the town are built of half-baked bricks—are unpointed, and ornamented, in the usual heavy style of the

country, with massive projecting balconies of unpainted wood. In some of the streets, these balconies dovetail into each other, so as most effectually to exclude the sun, intercept the view, and obstruct the free current of air ; and, although they are generally laboriously, sometimes handsomely, carved, yet the want of paint gives them an unfinished and gloomy appearance.

In other respects, the houses of Damietta are better than those of Alexandria, (excepting in the new part of that city), and the streets, without being paved, are somewhat cleaner. The bazaars are tolerably good, and well supplied with the produce of the country ; whilst, in the Frank shops, most European luxuries from Maraschino di Zara to Day and Martin's blacking may be procured at a moderate Italio-Greco profit of two hundred per cent.

There is no place of public accommodation, and I much feared we should experience a repetition of our Rosetta bivouac. A letter, however, with which I was furnished to Signor

Michele Serur, his Majesty's Vice Consul, procured us a very cordial reception and apartments in his house.

The trade of Damietta is considerable, but confined chiefly to the Greek islands and Levant, which is carried on in small vessels ; for the mouth of the eastern arm of the Nile, though more practicable than the Rosetta branch, is like it obstructed by a bar, on which there is not a sufficient depth of water to allow the large class of vessels employed in the trade of most European nations to pass. These are consequently obliged to anchor off the mouth of the river, on a very exposed coast, and subject to the hazardous and expensive operation of discharging their cargoes by means of boats.

The population of Damietta is of a very mixed kind. The European consulships are mostly confided to Greeks and Levantines, who are the principal merchants of the place. The Europeans are small in number, and less in respectability : the same may be said of the Copts. The Jews are more numerous,

and, in spite of the formidable competitors above-named, manage here, as well as every where else, to pick up a tolerable livelihood.

Both Copts and Jews are distinguished from the Moslems by wearing black turbans ; and in their hands is the principal part of the retail trade of Damietta. Their features are fortunately quite different, so that the stranger who has to deal with them chooses, with his eyes open, between the persuasively urged petty extortion of the Jew, and the brazen-faced imposition of the Copt.

Society there is none, excepting an occasional congregation of Chibouques.

Signor Serur presented us to the governor, Khalil Bey. Our visit was made in the evening, and attended with as much ceremony and etiquette as at a presentation at a European court. A few complimentary speeches having been exchanged, coffee and pipes were presented, the great man himself indulging in a hookah, of which the serpentizing fumiduct meandered some forty or fifty feet through the apartment.

The room was large, but lighted only by a solitary lamp, and one huge wax candle, that would not have disgraced the high altar of a Roman Catholic cathedral. Of furniture, save the divan, (by which must be understood the cushioned seats round the room, not the people seated thereon, to whom the term more properly applies) it was perfectly destitute.

Some twenty Chibouques were puffing an accompaniment to the Bey's large instrument, and half a dozen well dressed attendants, with legs clothed in white cotton stockings, (agreeable innovation!) were at hand to supply fresh Mocha and Latakia—the latter, by the way, far from being good; the former about the worst I ever tasted—so much for the excellence of Turkish coffee and tobacco!

Between his inspirations, his excellency received and perused various papers that were presented to him. His manners were gracious—as indeed those of most Turks are; his voice was soft and pleasing, and his appearance, altogether, prepossessing. He is a nephew, by marriage, of the Viceroy; his “first

and principal" wife being a daughter of Mohammed Ali's sister.

Damietta contains manufactories of cottons and silks, numerous rice-mills, and a salt refinery, all established by the present ruler of Egypt. The cotton factory consists of six large stone buildings, each of two stories, and gives employment to about one thousand five hundred persons: the greater part of this number are men. I saw no women, but amongst the children were many *girls*. None of the children, however, of either sex was of the very tender age at which we are in the habit of admitting them in the manufactories of our own humane country. They are occupied entirely in spinning and weaving coarse calicoes for clothing of all sorts.

The rooms are large and airy, and, excepting the men employed in beating out the raw cotton, all appeared to be healthy and perfectly happy. The adults receive a fixed rate of pay, as in the factories at Rosetta, but the children are paid according to the quantity of work they perform, a portion of their earn-

ings being kept back to pay for subsistence supplied. The establishment is under the direction of a native of the country.

The rice-mills (in number about six-and-twenty) are on the same rude plan as those at Rosetta. The salt refinery and silk manufactory are both in their infancy. The silk is by no means good: it is partly produced in Egypt, partly in Syria. The dyes are bad, excepting the blue, which is a fine rich colour produced from native indigo.

From Damietta to the Borgaz, or mouth of the river, is a distance of nine miles. The road runs along a narrow strip of land, varying from one to three quarters of a mile in width, which banks in the Nile from Lake Menzaleh.

About seven miles from the city is a fort of recent construction, built on the site of an old work, and standing on the edge of the river, which, indeed, washes one front. It is a bastioned fort, defended by wet ditches and brick *révétéd* ramparts, on which numerous pieces of artillery are mounted. It contains a mosque,

barracks, and magazines, for a large garrison, and exhibits, altogether, a respectable specimen of Egyptian fortification.

About a mile below the fort, is the village of Esbeh ; and, immediately opposite to it, on the left bank of the river, is a large Lazaretto, which the Viceroy, in compliance with European custom, has lately caused to be erected. He has, however — perhaps wisely — relieved himself from the charge of it, having placed its management altogether in the hands of the European consuls.

About a quarter of a mile beyond the Lazaretto, on the same side of the river, is a circular brick fort, enclosing a Martello tower ; and a short distance below this again, on the opposite bank, there is a similar work, but of somewhat larger dimensions. From these two forts, low sand-banks stretch yet further into the sea ; and between their extreme points is the sandy shoal forming the bar, or borgaz, which has already been mentioned as impeding so materially the navigation of the river.

The country, for some distance round Da-

mietta, is laid out in gardens and date groves, but, towards the mouth of the river, is very low and swampy, producing only rice.

Our stay at Damietta was rendered agreeable by the polite attention and hospitality of Signor Serur, nor can I avoid taking this opportunity of expressing my grateful sense of his kindness. I was happy to observe that he bore himself in his official capacity in a manner that must make the nation, whose agent he is, looked up to and respected by the semi-barbarous people with whom he is placed in contact — an exception, I may say, to the general rule as regards foreigners employed as consuls.

Profiting by Signor Serur's "*connoissance du pays*," we determined to cross Lake Menzaleh, and visit the ruins of San. We embarked for this purpose in a boat which he obligingly lent us, to take us as far as Mata-rieh, to the Sheik of which place he also furnished us with a letter, requesting that personage's good offices in forwarding us on our voyage.

CHAPTER V.

Lake Menzaleh — Quantity of Wild Fowl — Fisheries — Arrival at Matarieh—Canal of Moez—Swampy Islands—San—Ruins of Zoan—Camel Drivers—Journey to Salehieh—Description of the Town—Difficulty of Procuring Animals for continuing the Journey—Deceit of the Sheik, and distrustful Character of the Inhabitants — Efficacious armed Invention — Journey to Cairo continued — Sandy Tract of Country—Village of El Kherene—Civility of the Sheik el Belled.

THE water of Lake Menzaleh, or Matarieh, as it is indiscriminately called, is so very shallow during the months preceding the rise of the Nile, that it might be walked across from one extremity to the other, but for the old channels of the Mendesian, Tanitic, and Pelusic branches of the river, that intersect it, in which there is always a considerable depth of water.

The lake extends nearly the whole way from Damietta to Tineh or Pelusium, a distance of forty miles, and averages about

eighteen miles in breadth ; it is fenced in from the sea by a narrow neck of land, or rather sand, through which, however, there are several passages communicating with the Mediterranean, so that the water of the lake is always brackish. These outlets are so shallow as barely to be practicable, even for the fishing-boats of the country—a kind of djerm from forty to sixty feet in length, flat-bottomed, and rising considerably in the prow.

The quantity of wild fowl, pelicans, geese, and ducks, disturbed by our boat in its progress through the water was truly astonishing—we absolutely sailed through floating islands of them. The temptation to make use of our guns we were obliged to resist, for the right of fowling on the lake is farmed out, and, consequently, the discharge of fire-arms, or, indeed, the making any noise that would drive the birds from the decoys and nets spread for them, to the detriment of the lessee's revenue, is strictly prohibited.

The fishing and fowling on this lake alone are let out at an annual rent of a million and

a half of piastres (£16,000.) The quantity of fish taken is enormous, and enables the farmer to make a tolerable profit; but the produce of the sale of wild fowl is but trifling, although the quantity brought to the market of Damietta is very great. The fish is principally salted at Matarieh, and either sent off to Cairo for home consumption, or shipped at Damietta for Syria, the Archipelago, and other foreign markets. Botargo is made to the amount of three or four hundred thousand piastres.

We arrived late at night at Matarieh, and had to wait until the following morning, to procure a boat of lighter draught, to enable us to continue our voyage to San and Salehieh—an exchange that we were informed was necessary, on account of the shallowness of the water at the entrance of the canal of Moez.

The Sheik el Belled very obligingly offered us a room at his house, but such a fishy effluvium pervaded the whole place, that we preferred remaining for the night in our comfortable djerm, and giving the shore a wide berth.

The following morning, whilst the transfer of our effects to a smaller boat was taking place, we strolled through the town, which is divided into two distinct parts by a narrow neck of sand, about a quarter of a mile in length. Both, however, are situated on the margin of the lake, and consist of agglomerations of huts, built of a cement, of which the component parts are mud and fish-bones. The population (as is the case in fishing towns of all countries) is large, and of the dirtiest and most ragged description.

About two hours poling thrust our boat through various entanglements of sea-weed and banks of sand and mud, from Matarieh to the mouth of the canal of Moez, formerly one of the principal branches (the Tanitic) of the Nile, passing on our way within sight of a heap of stones, standing in the midst of the lake, which is generally considered the site of the ancient Tennis, although called also by the natives *old Damietta*.

A number of low, swampy islands, covered with rushes, and inhabited during the *winter*

months by fishermen, conceal and obstruct the entrance of the Moez Canal. These once passed, the channel becomes well marked and deep ; and, after proceeding a short distance up it, the banks contract the stream to a width of about one hundred and fifty feet, causing an increased velocity in the current.

The soil of the adjacent country is extremely rich, but quite neglected. Low brushwood covers the greater portion of it, amongst which a few herds of cattle find a scanty subsistence ; the rest was still undrained of the water left by the last inundation of the Nile.

The course of the stream is most provokingly indirect ; (for a winding river, in a flat, uncultivated country, is divested of all beauty ;) and, with a fine breeze in our favour, it occupied the greater part of the day to reach San, although the distance, as the crow flies, from the mouth of the river to that place, is little more than ten miles.

The only object that rose above the horizon was a dark mound of earth, which, deceived by the colouring of a brilliant sun-set, we

could hardly persuade ourselves was not a range of distant mountains. It proved to be but the mouldering remains of the once celebrated *Zoan*.

On arriving at the village (now called San) which is situated on the bank of the canal, and a little to the westward of the mounds of the ancient city, we learned that it would not be possible to proceed on by the branch canal from thence to Salehieh, as we had intended, the depth of water in it not being sufficient to float even our light boat.

We, however, detained it to afford us a quiet night's lodging, for, though covered in only by a piece of matting, it promised better accommodation than any of the fifty or sixty mud hovels composing modern Zoan—or even than the only brick building in the place, which, being a store-house, full of corn, cotton, dates, &c. we naturally concluded would contain vermin, also.

We devoted the following morning to exploring the ruins of the ancient city, for which ample time was afforded us; as not an animal

of any description could be procured in the village for the transport of our baggage, and our only chance of getting on to Salehieh at all depended on the arrival of camels from thence laden with dates, to be embarked at San for Damietta, the return of which we might take advantage of to forward us on our journey. This carrying trade appears to be the only occupation the inhabitants of San (than whom I never saw a more ill-looking set) have to depend on for a livelihood, for but a small portion of the country in the vicinity is cultivated, though the soil is apparently of a very productive kind.

The ruins of San (Tanis and Zoan) are very extensive and interesting. The city itself appears to have been situated but slightly above the level of the adjacent country, but secured from the periodical inundation of the Nile, which lays all this country under water, by high banks or walls, the circuit of which may be yet distinctly traced. Their general outline forms a pentagonal figure; at the five salient points are openings, where, probably,

the gates of the city were situated ; but, these having become partially filled up and the angles rounded, the interior of the place has now very much the appearance of the circle of a volcanic crater.

The *débris* of the walls consist principally of bricks, scoria, and small pebbles. In the centre of the space enclosed by the walls, a pile of enormous blocks of fine red granite points out the spot where, in all likelihood, stood the principal temple of the city. Situated a little to the eastward of it are some granite obelisks, covered with figures and hieroglyphics, of beautiful workmanship. I counted four distinct shafts. All of them, unfortunately, are broken and partly buried in the sand ; but they may very fairly be set down as equal in size to any that have been cut from the quarries of Syene ; for though in no case could I measure the actual base of any one of them, yet the width of several fragments I found to be upwards of six feet ; the greatest length of any one was thirty feet.

I also saw some broken granite columns, sculptured with the usual Egyptian characters ; but, from the style of the capitals, there can be little doubt of their having been used in the construction of some building erected during the period of the Grecian or Roman occupation of the country. They appeared to have been lately cleared from the surrounding mass of rubbish.

The ruins extend for a considerable distance beyond the walls of the city, and the traces of embankments and heaps of pottery, that are to be met with in all directions, lead to the supposition that the adjacent country was, at no very distant period, both thickly peopled and well cultivated. At the present day, a desert waste extends for miles beyond the distance that the eye can reach. One of the old dykes appears from its direction to have been a causeway, communicating with Tel al Doubkou, and was continued on, probably, from thence to Tennis, the ruins of which we had seen in the midst of the waters of Lake Menzaleh.

It was mid-day before any camels arrived at San ; and although, as soon as ever they were unloaded, the Sheik el Belled pressed two for our use, yet it was full two hours before we got away, and then only by taking upon ourselves the office of camel-drivers, concluding that the Bedouin owners would not be long in following their beasts. They were very clamorous, however, for immediate payment, which, not being yet sufficiently acquainted with the character of these people, (whose looks certainly do not bespeak honesty) we were by no means disposed to agree to, and thence arose their distrust of our promises.

The asses which were brought for our own riding looked so imploringly to be excused, that we mercifully determined on walking. A heavy shower of rain, that fell soon after we had set out, rendered this far from agreeable ; the rich greasy soil causing us to slide back half the distance of each step we made, and incommoding us with the weight of a thick stratum of mud, in addition to that of shoe-leather.

The distance from San to Salehieh is eighteen miles ; the road, for the first six, traverses a dead flat, annually laid under water and covered by a rich loamy soil. The sandy desert then commences, rising in gentle swells above the level of the Delta, and devoid of any trace of vegetation until it approaches the channel of the old Pelusic branch of the Nile, which is nearly twelve miles from San.

Soon after entering upon the desert, we saw at a little distance, on the right of the road, some granite blocks, the foundation of an ancient temple, and part of a basin, or font, also of granite, and very beautifully carved and polished, measuring eight feet in diameter.

The water in the old Pelusic channel is divided into several small streams, the deepest of which we found hardly above our camels' pasterns. The village of El Melazleh, situated on a slight elevation, immediately beyond the last arm of the river, is surrounded with walled fields of corn and flax, and shadowed with groves of palm trees.

The road, which had thus far been very

direct and nearly south, now makes a considerable elbow to the westward; crosses a sandy plain of about three miles in length, and, entering a forest of date trees, by which this little isolated desert is on all sides bounded, reaches Salehieh.

The town, properly so called, consists of two or three hundred houses, enclosed by a mud wall, to protect it from the marauding visits of its Bedouin neighbours. But, relieved of late years from fears on that head, most of the wealthier inhabitants have erected dwellings outside the fortress; and these detached houses, scattered throughout the forest, and encompassed by gardens and patches of corn, produce a very pleasing effect.

Salehieh ought to be made a strong military post, being the first town that presents itself after crossing the great desert which separates Egypt from Palestine, and commanding, as it does, the entrance into the lower part of the Delta.

Having now gained the high road between Jerusalem and Cairo, many good people in

England will suppose (such are the wonderful tales of the improved state of things in the East) that all difficulty in getting forward on our journey was at an end, and that we had nothing to do but to take places in the first diligence proceeding to the Egyptian capital. It will scarcely, therefore, be believed that it was with the utmost trouble we were able to procure three miserable donkeys, without saddle or bridle amongst them, to convey our two selves and servant; whilst for the transport of our luggage the Sheik el Belled thought proper to lay hands on the Bedouin camels that had accompanied us from San, ordering them to be lodged for the night in the village jail to ensure their forthcoming in the morning. The poor brutes were not even fed until I earnestly represented to the Sheik that, having already gone a whole day without food, they would not be in a fit condition to continue the journey on the morrow, unless their bodily wants were administered to—for camels really *do* require daily food, (at least, their Arab owners

feed them every day, which amounts to the admission that they want it), notwithstanding all that may be advanced to the contrary.

We were delayed three hours on the following morning for the before-mentioned donkeys, although the chief of the village had assured me by the beard of Mohammed Ali—a much more respected one in the present day than that of his great namesake, the prophet—that they should be ready for us at day-break. As I saw plenty of the patiently enduring race secured in the different courtyards which the windows of my dormitory overlooked—as well as horses also—I directed my servant to find out the habitation of the Sheik, and go to him and complain of his orders not having been complied with.

Not a soul, however, could be found who *would* point out the Sheik's abode—such was the dread of every one applied to for information that his own animals would be pressed to supply the place of those which had (or I should, I believe, rather say *had not*) been ordered for our use—and nothing

could persuade them that they would receive a handsome remuneration whilst employed in our service.

At length, finding persuasion unavailing, and losing all patience at their pretended ignorance, I adopted a method of treatment which I ever after had recourse to in my dealings with these people, and invariably with the most efficacious results, namely, the administration of a dose composed—in proportions varying according to the degree of obstinacy of the case—of bribery and compulsion, first, however, throwing in the corbash,* and then administering the palliative.

The effect, in this instance, was instantaneous, for the Sheik's house was discovered at the very first exhibition of the buffalo's hide; I, nevertheless, had to force an entrance *pistolet à la main*—his servant posted at the door

* Corbash, a strip of hippotomus's or buffalo's hide—sometimes a nerve of the former animal; the common whip of the country for man as well as beast.

I once asked a Bedouin camel-driver, who on the journey from Kosseir to Khench gave great cause of complaint, whether I should punish him by withholding the promised backschis, or by administering a dose of corbash. He unhesitatingly chose the latter. I pro-

refusing admittance, stating that his master was asleep and should not be disturbed.

It now became evident that no orders whatever had been given about the donkeys, although the previous night the Sheik had affected to take great interest in the matter, so much so, indeed, as even to fix the price we were to pay for each, &c. The truth was — such is their distrust of each other and every one else — that he could not be persuaded we really intended to pay for the animals, and, by giving directions that we should not be admitted to his presence in the morning, had calculated upon our patience becoming exhausted by delay, and on our departing without any other animals than the camels we had brought from San, which, not being the property of any of the inhabitants of his village, he had detained without the least compunction.

Our hostile visit consequently surprised

ceeded to belabour him accordingly, but he begged so imploringly to be forgiven, and the scene was altogether so ludicrous, that laughter saved his back.

him not a little ; and, on being threatened with the displeasure of Mohammed Ali, if the order of his lieutenant governing the Delta, with whose teskere I was provided, were not promptly obeyed, he broke out into numerous excuses, throwing the whole blame on one servant who had neglected to awaken another who was charged to call the men who had been ordered to furnish the animals ;—concluding with an excuse for his own personal non-appearance, on account of its being the Fast of Rhamadan, during which they (i. e. such as can allow themselves the indulgences) sleep all day and eat all night.

The inhabitants of this part of the country are the least civilized and most *ill-favoured* of any I had yet met with.* There is a strong mixture of Bedouin blood in the breed ; and, being lawless and faithless themselves, they expect extortion and deceit in all with whom they have to deal. Of this we had experience as we proceeded.

Our camel-drivers, on getting near their

* And indeed I may now say of any that I met with in Egypt.

native village—which lay a little out of the road—wanted to be paid for the whole journey, threatening, if we did not comply with their demand, to take our baggage off the camels and leave us to get on as we could. I directed my servant to explain to them, that as it was quite evident each party thought the other rogues, and equally as clear, that one must of necessity trust the other—either we, to have our baggage carried after they had been paid, or they to be paid after carrying our baggage—and as I saw nothing in their looks or conduct to induce me to think they were more honest than ourselves, that force must decide in a matter which otherwise appeared so difficult of arrangement, and that, acting up to this opinion, if they attempted to lay hands on our baggage, I should put a pistol to the head of each of their camels, and then take them to the nearest village to be punished.

Seeing that we were well armed—for, in addition to our pistols I had a double-barrelled fowling-piece, with which I had been shoot-

ing snipes in the swamps, bordering the road—my threats happily produced the desired effect; otherwise, one of the ruffians, being armed with a sword, besides the usual long gun carried by a Bedouin, serious resistance might have been offered; and, although the result of an *affaire* was little to be apprehended, yet, not being by any means desirous of pushing matters to that extremity, we were right glad to find our threats efficacious, and not sorry, after a wearisome walk of seven hours, to reach safely the village of El Kherene, distant about twenty miles from Salehieh.

The road for the greater part of the way is merely a hard sandy track, strewn thickly with pebbles, and may be considered the boundary line of the vegetation of the Delta, there being on one side of it a succession of date groves, brushwood, and pools of water—on the other an uninterrupted sandy desert, on which nothing could possibly grow. There is not a village, nor even a house, to break the monotony of the journey, nor did we meet with a dozen people between the two places.

El Kherene is a large scattered village

embosomed in groves of palm, orange, and, lime trees, and is refreshing to the sight after the dreary country we had traversed. The ground under the date trees is planted with corn, and kept fruitful by constant irrigation. Each plantation, and indeed every house, is enclosed by a mud-wall, stuck full of agates : the road through the village was also thickly strewn with them. The old Sheik, who came out to meet us, appeared to be as much amused at my collecting some of the finest and putting them carefully by, as was the village school-master of the *Pays d'Eldorado*, at Candide and Cacambo's taking the trouble of picking the rubies and emeralds out of the mud.

The Sheik was a civil old man, and said that, as he could not read a word of Turkish, our *teskere* was useless—yet he loved the English so well, that whatever we stood in need of should be forthwith furnished—whispering in my servant's ear that there was no occasion to pay for anything. Suspecting this was a mere feeler, put out to enable him to determine by our answer whether he should himself provide the things we stood in need of, or levy

them by a forced loan amongst the inhabitants, I gave him to understand that we should on no account receive anything that was not to be paid for, and requested he would therefore exert himself to procure us a supply of provisions, (which we had not been able to obtain anywhere since leaving Damietta,) and also to provide animals of some kind to convey us on our journey.

The best apartment of his house was kindly offered for our accommodation, but it was too thickly inhabited by the household animals of the country to be thought of as a sleeping place : so we pitched our tent in the courtyard.

Attracted by the brilliancy of our illuminated canopy, we were very soon visited by every inhabitant of the village. Their admiration changed to astonishment on observing our strange mode of cooking and disposing of the poultry, eggs, vegetables, &c., with which we were supplied from the Sheik's farm. They were very desirous to taste our sherbet—and under that name an old lady swallowed a large glass of proof brandy without either spilling a drop—or dropping a tear.

CHAPTER VI.

Journey continued—New Line of Road—Swampy Country—Village of Esneke—Ras el Wadi—Town of Belbeis—Canal to Cairo—Arrival at Zoahmeh—Dispute with the Camel Drivers—Situation of El Hankah—Imposing View of Cairo—Celebrated Battlefield—Village of El Mergh—Approach to Cairo—Suburban Annoyances—Metropolitan Dangers—Different Modes of Journeying from Cairo to Alexandria—Voyage back to the latter City—The Mahmoudieh Canal—Present State of the Delta—Its Productions—Cultivation—Cattle—The Arab Population—Beauty of the Women—Food of the Fellahs—Character of the Inhabitants.

THE next morning, we set out at daybreak, and, soon after getting clear of the village, took a new line of road, that inclining to the right (westward) leaves the great sandy desert, and, at the village of Abuhemad, (seven miles and a half from El Kherene) enters a swampy but well cultivated country, across which a causeway has lately been carried, shortening the road very considerably.

Before entering Abuhemad, a large irrigat-

ing canal is crossed by a stone bridge, and, about two miles further on, there is another bridge, and a sluice-gate in the causeway. The country round Abuhemad produces fine crops of cotton.

From thence to Esneke is three miles. This village stands in a small plain, elevated a little above the circumjacent country, and planted with date-trees and corn. It is situated at the mouth of the Ras el Wadi,* or Wadi Tomlat, a cultivated valley, that stretches for many miles into the sandy desert towards Suez; and along which, there can be little doubt, formerly ran the canal of the Ptolemies, connecting the Red Sea with the Nile.

The swampy country re-commences immediately beyond Esneke, and is traversed by another causeway for three miles. About a mile from its termination is El Ayiade, a scattered village, with plantations of indigo, flax, &c. From thence, an open plain extends all the way to Belbeis (five miles and a half),

* An account of which will be found in Chapter X.

the sandy desert again reaching up to the road-side ; its surface is covered with agates of a much larger size than any we had hitherto met with.

Before entering the town, (which, indeed, it is not necessary to do) the old road that we had quitted at El Kherene joins in again on the left. It is much heavier, as well as longer, than that which has been recently made. The distance from El Kherene, by the road we travelled, is about twenty miles.

Belbeis is a large ill-built town, containing an unusual quantity of crumbling minarets, and encompassed by a dilapidated wall—if that term may be applied to what is chiefly composed of mud. It stands apparently on the foundation of some destroyed city, being elevated very much above the level of the desert. It is commonly supposed to occupy the site of the ancient Pharbœthus, which, however, I should say, was situated about half a mile to the eastward of the present Belbeis, where the foundations of old walls, consisting of large blocks of stone, and nu-

merous mounds of broken pottery, bricks, and glazed tiles, mark the site of some place of antiquity.

Belbeis, in its present state, is far from being a defensible post, but it stands in a commanding position with reference to the adjacent country. An entrenched camp might be formed round it with advantage, as it would offer a favourable position for covering Cairo on the great Syrian road, besides watching the approach of an enemy by the Ras el Wadi, or cutting him off by Salehieh, should he have penetrated into the lower part of the Delta.

From Belbeis, the road, leaving the little villages of Zeribé and Rété on the left, arrives in four miles and a half at a large stone bridge, across a canal on the right. What the object of this stupendous edifice can be (for it consists of three arches, and is built of cut stone) I am at a loss to conjecture. It cannot be in contemplation to render the canal navigable, as no boat larger than a dingy could possibly pass under the arches of

the bridge; and I should hardly think that the Viceroy's military advisers can have persuaded him into committing the absurdity of making the canal a line of defence for this part of the Delta, although such an idea has been hinted.

The canal to which I allude has been recently excavated, and communicates directly between Cairo and Belbeis, skirting the ruins of Heliopolis, Saryakous, and Tel Yaoudi, and is connected with an old one that led from Chibin to Belbeis. From the last named place, a branch is conducted to El Ayiade, and from thence into the Ras el Wadi, and is the means of supplying that tract of country with water during a great part of the dry season.

Nine miles from Belbeis (three Arab) is the village of Zoameh, where we stopped for the night. The accommodation afforded by the Sheik's house was by no means inviting, but we were fatigued by our long day's ride, or rather walk; for, prompted by inclination to use our own legs during the early part of the

day, compassion for our starved animals led us to continue so to do for the greater part of the remainder of our journey.

Fortunately we had brought with us an abundance of carpets, cloaks, and blankets—though by no means anticipating the *cold* we experienced—otherwise, hard indeed would have been our beds, for I do not suppose the treasures of Haroun El Raschid—nay, nor the Firman of Mohammed Ali—could have procured two mattresses in any place we had stopped at since leaving Damietta—certainly not in the village of Zoameh.

The usual number of difficulties were started about procuring animals for the morrow, and the usual threats eventually overcame them. The tripartite war of words that burst forth, however, between the Sheik el Beled and his attendants, on the one side; the mule and camel drivers, who had come with us, and wanted to be discharged, on another; and such of the inhabitants of the village as had animals which they did not wish should be pressed for our service, on the third, occa-

sioned a din of voices that would have baffled even the powers of a Mathews to have given a notion of.

From Zoameh to Cairo is twenty-five miles. At the distance of three, is the little village of Meneya : and, at twelve, the town of El Hankah. A little before arriving at the latter place, and situated about a quarter of a mile off the road on the right, is the college of Abouzabel, of which an account will be given hereafter. El Hankah is surrounded by walled gardens and plantations. It contains many good houses, well furnished shops, and spacious bazaars, and may be considered one of the most flourishing towns in Egypt. For this state of prosperity, it stands indebted to its vicinity to the before-named college. It bears evident traces of occupying the site of some Saracenic city, and many curiously carved stones, Arabesque ornaments, and grotesque masks, have been worked into the walls of the modern houses, and serve to ornament the door and window-frames.

Immediately on issuing from the southern

gate of El Hankah, the first view of the pyramids of Ghizeh is obtained, and even at this distance (twenty miles at least) they appear to be within half an hour's ride.

After advancing a short way, the road inclines slightly to the right, so as to clear some groves of date trees which shelter El Hankah to the south, when the whole city of Cairo bursts upon the sight. There is certainly no more favourable point from whence the Egyptian metropolis can be seen; and indeed this may be considered one of the finest things of the *picturesque kind* that Egypt possesses. The view was particularly striking under the circumstances in which we beheld it. The boldly outlined Mokattan Hill—stretching far away to the north-east, but terminating precipitously towards the city—was thrown into one broad, deep shade. The citadel, the domes and minarets of Cairo, and the magnificent mausolea (called the Kalifs' Tombs) outside its walls, catching the light of an early sun, stood out in fine relief, from this dark background.

To the right, were the groves and (with regret for the lovers of the picturesque I say it) tall, smoking chimneys of manufacturing Boulak. In the distance, appeared the pyramids of Ghizeh, and the Lybian chain of mountains. It wanted only a foreground to be perfect ; but a bare, sandy desert seemed to extend from the spot where we stood to the very gates of Cairo. Such, however, is not the case ; for, after proceeding a few miles, and leaving the little village of Ayad on the left, we arrived at a causeway traversing a low tract of country that was formerly part of an unwholesome pool of stagnant water, known as the Birket el Hadgi, (Pilgrims' Lake) but which has lately been converted into a thriving nursery, where trees of all sorts are reared, to be transplanted as required to other parts of the country.

The lake, though not yet entirely drained, has been considerably reduced in size, so that, whilst a never-failing source of malaria has been removed, a rich tract of land has been gained by this improvement. There are

two stone bridges in the causeway, and, at its termination, is the village of El Mergh, distant about four miles and a half from El Hankah.

The plain between these two places is celebrated for the victory obtained by the French army under Kleber over that of the Grand Vizier Yousef Pasha (in March, 1800.) This victory redounded sufficiently to the honour of the French general, without any necessity for the bombast of designating him “the victor of Heliopolis,” which place (or rather obelisk, for that is all that remains to tell us where the far-famed city of the sun stood) is several miles distant from the spot where the battle was fought.

From El Mergh the road runs very direct to Cairo, leaving the obelisk of Heliopolis about two miles, and the village of Matarieh half a mile off, on the right. The latter part of the road is a mere camel track, across a deep sandy plain—hot, dusty, and wearisome.

The approach to the capital of Egypt is rendered yet more disagreeable by the bad odours that assail the nerves, and the myriads

of gnats that attack the veins of the fevered traveller. When, by reaching the gates of the city, he is freed from these sources of annoyance, others of an equally unpleasant description waylay him in the narrow crowded streets, where he is threatened every instant to be trodden under foot by a long string of laden camels—it being next to impossible, without a long apprenticeship, to acquire the art of steering clear of these ungainly brutes.

We were certainly an hour in making our way from the gate by which we entered to the French quarter, and were not a little pleased at finding a comfortable hotel kept by an Italian family, and feasting our eyes on a *Carte*, in which “biftek,” and other intended-to-be English dishes, figured conspicuously—differing, however, from the originals in taste, as materially as in orthography.

As it had not been our intention, on leaving Alexandria, to extend our excursion beyond the Delta, we came unprepared for a long sojourn in the Egyptian capital. I shall therefore abstain in this place from entering into any

description of it, reserving my observations until the period of my second visit, when a residence of some weeks enabled me to see every thing at leisure.

The journey from Cairo to Alexandria may be effected either altogether by land, or by water, as far as Niguilleh, or even Rosetta, and thence by land ; or entirely by water. If the first mode be adopted, horses in the temperate season are preferable to any other animals, as one may travel with them at a good pace, and easily perform the journey in three days : whereas, with camels, it requires at least four, and the long pace of that animal is very trying to a novice.

The pleasantest way of accomplishing the journey by land (the railroad not having yet *commenced*,) is to proceed along the left bank of the western branch of the Nile as far as Niguilleh, then strike inland to Damanhour, from that place gain the bank of the Mahmoudieh Canal at Keraoum, and keep along it to Alexandria.

This mode of effecting the journey is,

(when the inundation has subsided) at all events, certain; and is generally performed as quickly as by any other, though a strong southerly breeze will sometimes enable one to reach Alexandria by water on the second day. Should the traveller wish to visit the valley of Natron on his way, he must necessarily be encumbered with a considerable quantity of baggage, without which it would be dangerous to encounter the desert that extends three fourths of the distance: and in that case, there is no avoiding the use of the larger beasts of burthen. His best plan, therefore, is to hire a horse for his own riding, and submit his baggage to the jolting of a dromedary.

Tempted by a favourable wind, we hired a light boat to carry us to Atfieh, paying one hundred and fifty piastres for the voyage, and, starting in the afternoon from Boulak, found ourselves at our destination on the evening of the following day.

Atfieh is a small but thriving village, at the head of the Mahmoudieh Canal, which communicates with the Nile, nearly opposite

the town of Fouah. It is here necessary to procure another boat, as the communication between the river and canal is maintained only by means of sluice-gates, so that at no season of the year, whatever may be the respective levels of their waters, can boats be floated from one into the other—a fault which leads to much inconvenience, by occasioning great labour and much loss of time in the trans-shipment of merchandize.

During the dry season the bottom of the canal is on a level with the surface of the river. Now, it should either have been made four or five feet deeper, so as to have allowed loaded boats to float into it from the Nile, at all seasons of the year ; or, the communication should have been through the medium of a lock, feeding the canal by a stream led from a higher level of the river, to make good the consumption of water which the lock would have occasioned. This might still easily be done, and would not be so laborious or expensive a work as many less useful ones that have lately been undertaken. The aqueduct

might be directed from the Nile, near Niquilleh, as straight as possible (by means of artificial embankments) to the most southerly point of the Mahmoudieh Canal. A very small stream would be sufficient for the purpose required, and by this means the communication between the canal and river would be free throughout the year. As it is, however, the excavation of this canal has been of the utmost utility to the commerce of Egypt, by avoiding the precarious and dangerous sea navigation to which vessels were previously subjected, between Rosetta and Alexandria.

It has been stated that this work has, on the contrary, been productive of much mischief, by filling the harbour of Alexandria with mud — a most absurd error — since there is no communication between the canal and the main harbour. That the canal itself is partially filling up is very true, but this does not proceed from any mud carried into it and deposited by the Nile water, but from the faulty way in which the canal itself was executed, the soil taken out in excavating

it having been heaped up so as to form a steep ridge close to the edge on each side, instead of being carried further off and formed into lower and wider embankments. The consequence is, that every shower of rain and every high wind carries a portion of the earth back, either as mud or dust, into the canal.

At Atfieh, the evil arising from this fault is felt to a great extent during several months in the year, and also in other places where the banks are high and earthy; but, near Alexandria, where the canal is cut through the hard calcareous spit of land that forms the boundary of the Delta, there is not the least "deposit" of mud.

The height of the banks is objectionable also, on other accounts, viz., by preventing the smaller boats that navigate the canal from receiving more than an occasional gust of wind, and by allowing only the upper sails of the larger vessels to receive the full benefit of the breeze. Frequent upsets are the consequence of this blunder; and though such accidents are rarely attended with loss of life, yet

they are very detrimental to the bales of merchandize travelling in search of a market.

The country through which the canal passes is perfectly flat, until within a few miles of Alexandria; and is, for the most part, well cultivated. About Atfieh, a considerable quantity of rice is produced—corn, on proceeding westward. In digging the canal through the hills that encircle Alexandria, numerous catacombs have been laid open, as also the foundations of walls and other traces of the ancient city.

A few piastres, distributed amongst the custom-house authorities, save all trouble on the score of searching baggage. The system is so well understood, that they hold out their hands for the bribe as confidently as if they had been brought up to the business in the Ecclesiastical or Neapolitan dominions.

Before again proceeding on my travels, it will perhaps be as well to offer some observations upon the present state of the Delta; though, in so doing, I must necessarily forestall my acquaintance with the rest of Egypt,

from which, in many respects, it differs very essentially.

It is, decidedly, the best cultivated portion of the country, from the greater pains that have been taken to improve the rude means of irrigation heretofore in use : and it is naturally the most abundant in cotton, corn, hemp, beans, clover, and such productions, not only from its temperature being better suited to their growth than that of the sheltered valley of the Nile, but also from its receiving the benefit of the mild showers of rain that fall here during the winter months, at which season Upper Egypt has to depend entirely upon its artificial means of irrigation to render it fruitful.

Besides the productions above enumerated, the Delta furnishes a great quantity of rice, indigo, and sugar-canes; but, to the last named, the warmer climate of Upper Egypt is more congenial.

Vast tracts of land lie uncultivated, in various parts of the Delta; but this arises, not from the want of hands to till them, as has

been supposed; but from the uncertainty attending the rise of the Nile, which consequently renders their culture precarious. These waste lands are mostly those portions of the Delta, which, from being raised above its general level, the inundation often fails to reach, and on which the labour of irrigation is, therefore, greater; — that is, in other words, the expense attendant on their cultivation would be greater than on the rest of the Delta; and they may, therefore, be compared to the inferior lands that lie waste in our own country, the sale of the produce of which would not cover the expense of cultivation. This will be made more apparent, when the laborious method adopted in raising water is explained. Two men are placed at the sides of a pool, or reservoir, cut in the bank of an irrigating canal, holding between them a flat conical basket, by long rope-handles. This they plunge into the pool, and, drawing it out full, pitch the contents, with a simultaneous jerk, into a narrow channel, at least four feet above the level of the reservoir.

They regulate their motions by a kind of monotonous chant, and continue at this work for a considerable time without much apparent fatigue.

In this way, they manage to keep a stream flowing, which it would require an ox to do, by means of a wheel ; but, it must be admitted, that it is a sad misapplication of human labour ; and, when the water is to be raised seven or eight feet, two couple of men are necessary ; whereas, the ox and wheel will raise the same stream to that higher level with nearly as much ease as to the other. In Upper Egypt, I have seen as many as four couple of men employed in this unprofitable way.

The value of land, in Egypt, must consequently be estimated according to its level above the Nile ; as on that depends the cost of its cultivation.

The implements of husbandry are of the most primitive kind. The Arab ploughshare is a piece of wood, covered with a thin plate of iron. The ground is merely scratched, the

plough not entering more than four or five inches. Oxen and buffaloes are the animals mostly used all over Egypt for agricultural purposes, and, in the Delta, the breeds of those animals are remarkably fine. The beasts of burthen are camels and asses: the former, though large and powerful, are slow and bad travellers on muddy roads, which, in winter, those in Lower Egypt mostly are. The Bedouin camel is a smaller race, but hardier and more handsome; that is, if the term handsome can be applied to a beast so perfectly hideous as the camel.

The goats, of which there are large herds in the Delta, are very beautiful animals, having long sleek coats and drooping ears. They are mostly of what, in speaking of terriers, we should call the *black and tan* breed. The sheep are abundant, but rather small. The cattle of Egypt are all subject to a distemper (for which there is no known remedy), that carries them off in great numbers, rendering them a source of considerable expense.

Excepting the migratory birds and some

few aquatic animals, such as quail, teal, wild ducks, snipes, otters, &c., no undomesticated animals are to be found in the Delta.* Hares, grouse, and partridges, which are plentiful in Upper Egypt, would find neither subsistence nor a place of refuge during the period of the inundation, when this flat country becomes a perfect lake; the mounds on which the villages are built studding it like so many islands.

Excepting the everlasting palm groves by which most of the villages are sheltered, the Delta presents but little variety in the way of trees. Along the banks of the Nile and some of the principal canals that intersect the country, a few stunted sycamores and mimosas may occasionally be met with, and here and there groves of a kind of yew, the favourite resort of quantities of doves.

The Arab population of the Delta is beyond comparison the best in Egypt. The men are decidedly handsome, that is, if a

* Some few wild boars and hares are to be met with amongst the sand-hills bordering Lake Bourlos; but I speak here merely of the cultivated portion of the Delta.

Grecian nose, dark eyes, good teeth, a small rounded chin, and high forehead, constitute beauty. Their complexions, though swarthy, can by no means be called dark, and they are almost without exception straight and well made.

The women allow a stranger but few opportunities of judging of their “fair proportions,” their eyes and feet only being visible; these are invariably good — the admirers of very dark eyes would say they are *beautiful* — the feet, being *small* and well formed, there can be but one opinion about. The lower part of the face is concealed by a kind of mask made of black cotton, drawn close up under the eyes, and hanging down in a point in front about two feet. This mask is closed at the back, and another portion of it is brought over the head to conceal the forehead and nose, its extremity being weighted with coral-beads, &c., whilst a kind of *pendant de nez*, composed of a quantity of gold, or brass pieces of money, hangs down as low as the mouth.

Whenever some fair inhabitant of the Delta has deigned to remove these safety-valves, with a view no doubt to my utter annihilation—a very presentable face has invariably been exposed to view, but it would be rash from that circumstance to conclude that all the women of the Delta are handsome. The habit they have of carrying their children on their shoulders, and heavy burdens on their heads, makes them all very upright and gives them a good carriage, and I have no doubt but that they are as well formed in every respect as the men.

It is a rare thing to see a cripple in Lower Egypt, but melancholy to witness the ravages that have been committed by ophthalmia and small-pox. The number of the blind from these two diseases is truly astonishing, and I am sorry to say that they are in a great measure propagated by the filth, which, as children, they seem to delight and are allowed to wallow in.

When arrived at a more advanced age, I should be far from calling the Arab Fellahs

a dirty race. They are always decently, if but scantily, clad. The men wear the ample Turkish breeches, made of white or blue cotton and slippers, the legs from the knee downwards being, in most cases, bare. The bornoos, or a tunic of blue cotton with long sleeves, is the invariable dress that conceals the want of the various intermediate non-conductors of caloric required to be placed between the skin and the atmosphere in less temperate climates. A turban completes the dress; of this the red woollen scull-cap, or turboush, (so common in the East), is the *fond*; the bandeau forming the turban being a long piece of cotton (generally white) folded round it.

The food of the Arab peasant consists of a sort of bread made into round, flat cakes, composed of coarse flour, or more commonly of durrâh, rice, vegetables, dates, milk, honey, salt-fish, and occasionally meat; and, let others say what they please of the matter, I never passed through a village at the market hour but I found abundance of vegetables

for sale, as well as eggs, fresh meat, and generally salted fish.*

I do not by any means intend to assert that all the Fellahs eat *meat*; or even daily *all* the articles above mentioned, but this I certainly will maintain, that the labouring class here (in the Delta) is as well fed as the same class in most other countries. They are very abstemious, differing essentially in this respect from some of their brother Moslems, who are perfect gluttons. The constant use of the pipe, by having the effect of deadening the appetite, may, perhaps, deserve the credit of endowing them with this virtue — making good the saying that out of all evil cometh some good—though, during the forty days fast of Rhamadan, when smoking as well

* The price of labour varies in the Delta from twenty paras to a piastre a day, the higher rate being usually given near the sea coast, that is to say, in the vicinity of the rice grounds, where the work is harder and the price of provisions greater. Some idea may be formed of their means of keeping life and soul together on this slender pittance by the following memorandum of the sums paid by us in the Delta in our character of English travellers, namely, fowls, $1\frac{1}{2}$ piastre each; ducks, $1\frac{1}{4}$; four large French rolls, 1 piastre; twenty-four eggs, 1 piastre; two okes of dates, (about six pounds English) 1 piastre.

as eating and drinking is prohibited between the rising and the setting of the sun, it is wonderful how they can possibly bear the fatigue of their daily work. That they *do* so, however, I had an opportunity of witnessing in the persons of the camel-drivers who accompanied us across the desert from San to Cairo.

It is fortunate for them when the period of Rhamadan (as at present) falls in the winter, for, in the heat of summer and in such a climate as Egypt, this strict observance of the commands of the Koran must produce innumerable evils.

The inhabitants of the Delta are mild in their manners, intelligent, sober, and hospitable, but indolent, crafty, and distrustful. On approaching the Desert, a remarkable change takes place both in the features and demeanour of the people; they become swarthy and ill-looking, less tractable, and more clamorous and imposing. In fact, a strong mixture of Bedouin blood is perceptible—the Arab character is still the same, but in a less cultivated state.

On quitting the Delta, and ascending the Nile, the change is equally observable, though of a different nature. There, in proportion as the complexion of the people becomes darker, the nose widens and becomes flatter, the forehead lower, and the cheek-bones are higher, until, at length, the Negro “stands confesst”—phrenologically deficient in all the intellectual faculties. But I am wandering from the Delta, of which little, however, remains for me to add, excepting that, to avoid imposition, it is necessary in travelling even there to assume a high tone in your intercourse with the natives ; and, in mixing with the Bedouins, to let them see that you are well armed. It requires some tact to deal with all classes of Arabs ; it being necessary to make them aware that it is neither your intention to cheat them, nor to become their dupe. By a seasonable display of wrathful gesticulation, and a proper admixture of promises, this desirable end is only to be attained. My Arab servant understood the just proportions to a nicety. He could, in a

moment, throw himself into the most apparently-violent passion—foaming even at the mouth, if he saw occasion for it :—the next minute, he was smilingly patting the adverse party on the back :—but such a treasure is not to be met with readily ; and my countrymen being, generally speaking, but ill-provided with this pliability of temperament, are of all others least suited to manage these provokingly distrustful people. An Englishman's bile, when once moved, is not easily re-conducted into its proper channel, and a summary mode of settling the difference of opinion is often adopted, which, in his cooler moments, he cannot but repent of having put in force with these poor, ignorant, and oppressed beings.

CHAPTER VII.

Old Cairo—Its reputed Antiquity—Description of the City of Cairo—Its Walls and Districts—Narrowness of the Streets—El Esbekieh—Appearance of the Houses—Mosques—Markets and Bazaars—Donkey Riding in the Streets—The Slave Market—Excellence of the Police—Conduct of the Franks—Immense Population—Costume adopted by Europeans—Sect of St. Simonians—Situation of the Citadel—The New Mosque—Joseph's Well—The Mint—Coinage of Egypt—Fortifications—Military Arsenal—Cannon Foundries—Small-arm Manufacturies—Wages of the Artificers—Annual supply of Fire Arms.

My return to Alexandria having merely been for the purpose of rejoining my heavy baggage, and laying in a stock of provisions for our intended voyage up the Nile, (which is much better done at the seaport than at Cairo ;) I shall pass over the few days spent there in arranging these matters, (the place having already been fully described) as well as the time occupied in performing the voyage back to Cairo. On my return to the capital,

I once more took up my abode at the “*Locanda Italiana*,” from whence, however, I removed, in the course of a few days, to Old Cairo, where a house had been taken for myself and two friends, who purposed accompanying me to Upper Egypt.

Old Cairo—called by the natives *Mesr-An-teekeh*—by the Ancients, *Fostat*—is quite a distinct town from Cairo, being separated from it by gardens and plantations, that cover a space of at least two miles in extent. It is by many asserted to have been built by the Israelites, during their bondage in the land of Egypt: by others, it is said to have been founded by Amrou, the Moslem General, who conquered Egypt in the seventh century.

In support of the first opinion, the very house in which the Virgin Mary resided after her flight into Egypt is shown; proving that, at all events, a town existed on the spot, long before even the founder of Islamism came into the world. The advocates of the contrary hypothesis assert this to be a mere

Coptic fable, and maintain that Fostat, in Arabic, signifies *tent*, and that the town took its name from having been the spot where the victorious Saracens established their head-quarter camp.

Whichever may be the case, the extensive ruins that surround the present town prove Mesr Anteekeh to have been, at some time or other, a place of importance. At the present day, it may be considered as a kind of Putney, on the banks of the Nile, to which the wealthy inhabitants of the capital resort during the summer months, to enjoy a view of the muddy river and a change of dust.

Cairo is generally admitted to have been founded by Jauhar, the Arab General who conquered Egypt for the first Khalif of the Fatamite Dynasty, in the year 358 of the Hegira, (A. D. 980,) from whom it received the name of El Kahira, (the victory,) and the Khalif Moez soon afterwards made it the capital of his dominions.

It was enlarged and enclosed by stone walls by Saladin, who also built the citadel

on an isolated rocky eminence, that completely commands the whole place. The greater part of the present walls is probably the same as was built by the celebrated adversary of Cœur de Lion ; they still embrace the entire city, which, consequently, can be entered only by the different gates.

The city stands a little removed from the bank of the river, along which it extends nearly two miles and a half ; but its breadth averages little more than one ; so that its circuit does not exceed seven miles.

It is divided into various districts, or *quarters*, each of which was formerly occupied exclusively by some particular tribe or nation. Many of the gates and partition walls of the different wards still remain, but no great attention is now paid to the classification of the inhabitants, excepting as it applies to the Jews.

The streets are, for the most part, so narrow, that a person standing in the middle of them may touch the houses on each

side with his outstretched arms, whilst the projecting wooden balconies of the upper stories frequently overlap each other, as at Damietta, so as effectually to exclude the sun ; tending, at all events, to keep the streets cool.

In the Frank quarter, the streets are rather wider ; indeed, there is one, leading quite through the city, from the citadel to the gate of Boulak, which is even practicable for a carriage ; enabling the Viceroy to indulge in that Christian means of transmigration, whenever he visits his country palace at Shoubra.

In the Jew's quarter, the alleys are yet narrower than those already mentioned ; in fact, it is with some difficulty that a loaded donkey can squeeze his way through them. They are the only thoroughfares in the whole of Cairo that can be called *filthy—dirty* all must occasionally be, as they are neither paved nor Macadamised ; but the police is very strict in enforcing obedience to the regulations respecting the removal of all offensive matter, so that the sense of smell is very little shocked *within* the walls of the Egyptian capital—a

commendation of which it enjoys the monopoly.

In the dry season (and I may as well observe here, that there *is* a wet one, even at Cairo) the streets are regularly watered; but the great heat soon dries them into dust again, which the abominable Khampseen wind as quickly sets in motion, to the great detriment of the eyes.

There are several fine open spaces (they can hardly be called *squares*) in different parts of the city: that denominated El Esbekieh is large and handsome. Its area—which bears a luxuriant crop of corn in winter—becomes a deep lake during the periodical overflow of the Nile. One side of this square is occupied by the palace in which Kleber was assassinated, now possessed by Ibrahim Pasha.

Most of the edifices of Cairo are built of bricks, which, not being of a good colour, nor thoroughly baked, give the place a crazy, comfortless character that it by no means deserves; for in reality the houses are solidly constructed, and not devoid of conveniences.

In the best parts of the city, the habitations are spacious and lofty, and, almost every where, consist of two stories.

Many of the minarets of the mosques (of which there are said to be three hundred) are light and elegant; but they are almost all out of the perpendicular, and a curved line is not the line of grace *in a minaret*.

The markets are well supplied with all sorts of provisions, and the bazaars are abundantly stocked with every description of foreign goods, as well as with those of home produce. Each bazaar is usually confined to the sale of one particular description of commodity—one to cloth—another to silk—a third to diamonds, and so forth. If, therefore, a person has to make various purchases; instead of having merely the length of Regent Street to pace, he is obliged to perambulate the Egyptian capital from one extremity to another.

This wearisome occupation is generally rendered as little fatiguing as possible by mounting a donkey. But this, too, has its inconveniences; for as no persuasions of heel,

or switch, would ever induce the poor meek little animal to intrude himself upon the dense mass of human beings, with which the ever-busy streets of Cairo are constantly thronged, it is necessary to overcome his repugnance by means of a boy armed with a sharp-pointed stick. Following in the rear, the driver ever and anon gives the poor brute a dig that makes him twist round the offended hind quarter, so as to form a right angle with his bare ribs, bringing the rider's knee, most probably, in contact with some sturdy Jew pedlar's basket; or—what is still worse—with the saturated buffalo skin, hanging dripping down the wall-side of a huge camel—the cries of “Hotēy, riglick,” &c. (“take care, mind your toes,” &c.) vociferated by the attendant boy, being as little attended to by the owner of the basket, as understood by the bearer of the skins full of water.

The slave-bazaar is the most disgusting of all disgusting sights. The miserable beings, clothed in a few rags, and covered with ver-

min, are stirred up, and have their “good points” enumerated and dilated upon, as if they were horses, or any other marketable animal.

Christians are now freely admitted to these bazaars, excepting to the apartments containing the Georgians, who, in consequence of the interference of Russia in behalf of these her subjects, are now locked up separately, and are reserved only for the gaze of Moslem eyes. They usually—if fat and fair—fetch a very high price.

Women discarded from the harems are now also frequently offered for sale at the bazaars, instead of, as formerly, being strangled. They are generally disposed of at a cheap rate. A young Negro boy may be bought for from six hundred to one thousand piastres (seven to ten pounds); a girl is worth something more—eight times that sum, indeed, if arrived at the age of puberty, and “warranted free from vice, and without blemish.”

The police of Cairo is excellent, and the streets may be traversed in perfect secu-

rity at any hour of the day or night — a most remarkable improvement upon the state of things that existed some few years back, when the Frank costume was sure to draw insult, if not ill usage, upon its wearer. The European now, I am sorry to say—encouraged by the countenance shown to all foreigners by the Viceroy—bullies in his turn the unoffending Arab, or at least the unlucky Arab wight, whose only offence is not getting quickly out of the way of his overbearing person.

The crowded state of the streets of Cairo is certainly a great nuisance, and Musselman apathy especially causes the bile to rise in any one who has business to attend to, and who happens by nature to be of a “hurried”* disposition.

The population of the Egyptian capital is immense; I have no hesitation in estimating

* I am indebted for this expressive adjective to the worthy *Effendi*, Kodsî Mansoulli, His Britannic Majesty’s consular agent at Suez, who coined it to describe to me the character of a gentleman noted for his zeal in promoting steam navigation to India, and for the want of the quantum of phlegm that is usually enjoyed by my countrymen.

it (previously to the late mortality, occasioned by the plague, and including Old Cairo and Boulak) at half a million of souls. By far the greater portion of this number consists of Arabs. The Copts, perhaps, rank next in numerical strength, and may be reckoned at twenty-five thousand. The Jews also are still pretty numerous, but the Turks and Albanians have diminished considerably in number since the elevation of Mohammed Ali to the viceregal dignity by the bayonets of his Egyptian troops.

The Franks are rapidly on the increase, and of all the varieties of the human species that throng the narrow streets of Cairo, they are the most disreputable in appearance, as well as—I believe I may safely add—in their dealings. European travellers usually change their national costume on arriving in Egypt for that of the *nizam* or native troops, from an erroneous idea that by so doing they will be treated with more respect in the distant parts of the country, and many of the respectable resident Franks assume it from their holding appointments under the Egyptian

government. The greater part of the residue, consisting of the outcasts of all the nations of Europe, retain the garb in which they absconded from justice in their respective countries, and are the most rascally looking set I ever beheld.

Distinct from all other species, must, however, be classed the sect of St. Simonians, who, as well in appearance as in number, figure conspicuously in the Egyptian metropolis. The long flowing beards, sleek persons, and peculiar costume of these gentry, distinguish them sufficiently from their kindred Franks; but there is, moreover, an amiable, complacent expression about them that there is no mistaking, and which is peculiarly well suited to their views and doctrines, seeming to say; "I possess not a single sous in the world of my own, but shall be most happy to share the good things of any one who will suffer himself to be persuaded to admit me into partnership."

The citadel stands on a rocky eminence, elevated about two hundred feet above the level of the Nile, and cut off from the

Mokattan Hill by a deep chasm some four hundred yards wide. Within the precincts of the fortress are the Palace and Hareem of the Viceroy, (plain whitewashed buildings, neither so large nor so handsome as those at Alexandria), the Mint, the Council Chamber or Divan, and various public offices.

Mohammed Ali is also building a Mosque within the walls of the Fortress—the first proof he has given his faithful subjects—in this way—of his belief in the efficacy of good works. I could not but wish that he had not convinced them of his orthodoxy at the expense of an old temple that formerly stood there, the beautiful syenite columns of which the workmen were hacking and chopping at, in a way that made me feel every blow of their hammers.

The workmanship is in the usual rude Egyptian style, and it strikes me that the Arabs, once so celebrated as stone-masons and builders, are less successful now at those trades than at any other to which they put their hands.

Some marbles, sculptured with bas-reliefs, for decorating the walls of this new Mosque, have been imported from Genoa. They are conceived and executed in the very worst Italian taste and manner, and must have been contracted for at so much the "braccio."

The celebrated well of Joseph, which is in the citadel, is one hundred and eighty feet deep ; the water is not good in proportion to the trouble it gives to raise it : this is done in the usual manner, by wheels turned by cattle—the *wonder* of the well being, that one of them is ninety feet below the surface of the ground.

Our guide related sundry melancholy stories of various Christians who had descended never again to return to enjoy the blessings of light ; adding, as a corollary, that the descent was a dangerous undertaking for any one who was not a good Musselman. My curiosity did not lead me to make any attempt to disturb his faith. The well is now but little used, both on account of the quality of the water as of the trouble and expense of raising it.

To see the Mint it is necessary to procure an order from the director. The whole process of coining is of the rudest kind. The first operation—that of reducing the strips of metal (which it would be a libel on the precious ores to call gold and silver) to a uniform thickness, is performed by the rotatory movement of two fat bullocks; the rolling press used for the purpose being fixed in the midst of the animals' litter. From this press they are thrown over to a man, who passes them through a guage, to ascertain that they are not *too thick*, and from him they are carried into another apartment, where they are punched by manual labour into the various sizes required for receiving the respective stamps that are to give them their value—which, intrinsically, is *nil*, or nearly so. Previously to this last operation, they are submitted to a chemical process, which gives them the semblance, in colour, of the precious metals that they are intended to represent.

The present coinage of Egypt has an alloy of seventy-five per cent in it, and—being forced

into circulation at a rate much beyond even its real value—has of course no currency out of the country. The gold used in the manufacture of the Egyptian coin is procured by smelting Spanish doubloons and Turkish sequins. Should these be scarce, English sovereigns next take precedence in the honour of an introduction to the crucible. Spanish dollars supply the silver.

It was reported before I left Egypt that the Viceroy had it in contemplation to alter the coinage of the country by introducing a copper currency to take the place of the present white metal, and a silver one that of the yellow, whilst the coins of that colour should, for the future, be of *real* gold. The apparatus for striking the new pieces had already arrived from England, but I believe this desirable improvement has not yet been carried into effect.

The Citadel is a contemptible work, for all that art has done for it; but its walls rest on a foundation of scarped rock, and would consequently be difficult to breach with effect, particularly as they have lately been

put in a respectable state of repair. It is looked down upon from the Mokattan Hill, the western extremity of which is occupied by a modern fort.

This, like all Egyptian public works, is wretchedly built, and also sins in its construction against the rules of fortification; the side on which it is least open to attack being that on which most pains have been bestowed on its defences.

The object of this fort can only be to occupy ground, which, if possessed by an enemy, would give him an advantage in attacking the Citadel. Yet most of the guns are directed, as if with the sole view of commanding that fortress, the fire of which would, however, level it to the ground in less than an hour—its eastern scarp walls being exposed to the very base, although retired about a hundred yards from the edge of the precipice.

It contains casemated stores and a fine tank, and communicates by means of a steep ramped road with the bottom of the rugged *defilé* that separates the Mokattan Hill from the Citadel rock.

The Arsenal is situated immediately under the walls of the Citadel, on the descent to the city. It contains foundries for both brass and iron guns, manufactories of small-arms, and workshops for the supply of military equipments of every description. It is, taken all together, the finest establishment in Egypt, though susceptible of improvement in many respects.

The iron cannon foundry is, perhaps, the branch that can least be found fault with. The process of casting differs but little from that followed in England, and the small pieces that have been turned out are remarkably good, though wanting the finish of those cast in most European foundries — a remark that applies to almost every thing made in Egypt. The boring apparatus is, however, particularly good, which is one of the most essential things.

The brass artillery consists of four and eight pounders field-pieces, twelves for the battering train, twenty-four pounder howitzers, and three and six inch mortars. The gun-carriages (constructed on French models)

are heavy and clumsy — the same may be said of the harness and equipment generally.

The small-arm manufactory is also a well conducted branch of the establishment; and, considering the short time it has been in existence, the work executed must be allowed to do infinite credit to the native workmen employed. I may add, that, if it were worse than it is, they really would have the excuse of bad tools and bad models to offer.

The boring machinery is nearly worn out, from which circumstance and that of its being turned by oxen but little dependence can be placed upon the accuracy of its work.

The Egyptian muskets are longer in the barrel than those used in the British army, and their stocks being, at the same time, lighter, they cannot but have a tendency to drop at the muzzle, which must render their fire very ineffective. The bayonets, likewise, have, hitherto, been made somewhat longer than those used in our service, and were made to fix on, in the French way, but our method of fixing them has latterly been adopted, and they

have been reduced in length; the opinion beginning to prevail that English bayonets will be found quite long enough for any purpose that the Egyptian troops are likely to require them.*

The muskets for the Light Infantry are somewhat shorter and lighter than those with which the line regiments are armed. The lock-springs are perhaps the best part of the work. The wood used in making the stocks is coarse-grained and not sufficiently seasoned—the workmanship rude. Notwithstanding all these defects, a very respectable weapon would be produced but for the French model, which is decidedly bad.

The sabres for the cavalry are extremely bad; French models again occasioning the

* A Frenchman, high in Mohammed Ali's service, who was accompanying his highness in one of his inspections of the small-arm manufactory, objected to this alteration, remarking that the English bayonet was too short. "There's no pleasing them ere French foreigners," muttered, in his own Brummagem vernacular, a patriotic operative, before whom the observation was made; "now they finds our bayonets too short—at Waterloo they found 'em too long." The Viceroy enjoyed a hearty laugh on the words being translated to him, and ordered a purse to be given to the patriotic gunsmith.

fault. They are both ill-shaped and badly poized, possessing neither the cutting virtue of the scimitar, nor the straightness and solidity requisite for thrusting. That worse than useless weapon, the short sword for infantry, is that of all others upon which the greatest pains appears to be bestowed, whilst the lances are as bad as the weapon admits of being made.

The wages of the different artificers vary, according to their abilities, from one to three piastres a day, but in the small-arm manufactory they are paid by piecework, and it is perfectly incredible for what a small sum the muskets are produced ; the expense of making a stock, (the wood being furnished) amounting only to seventy paras, or fourpence halfpenny.

Notwithstanding the cheap rate at which manual labour is obtained, the Military Arsenal is perhaps the most expensive of the Viceroy's establishments, scarcely any of the materials consumed in it being the produce of the country. It is, nevertheless, one for setting on foot which he can scarcely be

blamed ; for, although arms might be purchased at a somewhat less cost than he can manufacture them, yet every country (and more particularly one so peculiarly situated as Egypt is at this moment) ought to possess within itself the means of arming its inhabitants, in cases of emergency, instead of having to depend upon a precarious supply from other nations.

The stores of Sheffield and Birmingham, for instance, would be too distant to trust to for a supply of arms, in the event of a sudden rupture with Turkey ; and even should neither adverse winds, nor want of ready money or credit, have to be guarded against : still the adoption of a strict *system of non-intervention* might effectually cut off the supply, and produce the most fatal results—especially since of late years the term has been found to mean that assistance *is* to be afforded to *one* of the belligerents, and in this case Turkey might be the favoured nation.

The two small-arm manufactories of Cairo

can each furnish one thousand stand per month, and a third, which is at Boulak, six hundred ; making a total of thirty-one thousand two hundred a year ! This number is so infinitely beyond what can be required, that it may be expected they will shortly be exported to Persia and other countries, where English arms now find their way ; for—as I make no doubt the English manufacturers know full well—it is cheapness—not quality—that is chiefly looked to in the East.

CHAPTER VIII.

Busy Scene at Boulak—Galloway Bey—The Cotton Factories—Power Looms—Steam Engine—Use of Printed Goods in Egypt—The Copper Mill—Presentation to Mohammed Ali—Anecdote relative to the Viceroy—His Palace—His Person described—His Dress—Conversation—Refreshments—The Presence Chamber—Russian and Tuscan Consuls—Unceremonious Visit of a Polish Refugee—Surprise of the Viceroy—Pretended Petition—Sensation in the Ante-chamber—Animated Scene on leaving the Palace.

THE principal manufactories, storehouses, &c., are at Boulak, which may be called the Port of Cairo. It is situated on the same bank of the river as the city, about a mile lower down the stream. It is as dirty, as populous, and nearly as large, as Blackwall, and presents the same busy scene, attended with much more noise.

On the banks of the river are heaped huge pyramids of millet, peas, and corn, the pro-

perty of the government, and placed there—exposed to the sun, dew, and rain—ready for shipment. The shore is lined with Djerms, Canges, and boats of all descriptions, discharging their cargoes, or advertised for hire. They are mostly the property of the different government officers, who make a “very good thing” of them.

The factories of Boulak—and indeed most of the public works, requiring the superintendence of a scientific person—are under the direction of Mr. Galloway, an English gentleman, lately created a Bey, and chief civil engineer of Egypt.

In the cotton factories, power looms have, hitherto, been but very partially introduced. There is one small mill in the citadel of Cairo, and another, which is to be worked by steam, has lately been erected on the bank of the river, between Boulak and Shoubra. It will be the first experiment, on a large scale, that has been tried in Egypt. It is intended for three hundred looms, but only half that number was ready when I visited it: at which

time the little work that was going on there was still performed by hand.

The steam-engine is a twenty horse (low pressure) power. A better article will probably be produced there than has yet been furnished by Egypt; but, from the great increase of expense in procuring it—occasioning, of course, a corresponding advance in price—I hardly anticipate its being found a profitable concern :—at all events not until the Arabs are rich enough to prefer a good article to a cheap one.

The steam-engine of this factory cannot be worked at a less cost than £6 a day; (i.e. twelve hours) whereas, the labour of three hundred Arabs (at an average of one piastre per diem), can be obtained for £4. The additional pay of overseers, &c., on the one side, will be more than counterbalanced by that of an engineer, stokers, &c., on the other; so that (throwing out the wear and tear of machinery as being on a par) it is clear that the factory will do the same quantity of work by manual labour as by steam, at one-third less expense.

The factory itself is the best built modern edifice in Egypt. Adjoining it, is a large establishment for printing cottons, under the direction of two Maltese gentlemen. The process is as yet but imperfectly understood and badly executed. The stamping is done by blocks, rendering it a tedious operation, and the workmen are paid very high wages, making it an expensive one. It is, nevertheless, driving the inferior foreign articles out of the market. The consumption of them is but small, for printed calicoes can hardly be said to enter into the dress of the mass of the inhabitants of Egypt. That of the upper ranks is usually either of silk or muslin; whilst the lower orders are satisfied with the white or plain blue cotton manufactures of the country; and their taste in this matter cannot, I think, be questioned.

The use of printed goods is, therefore, confined principally to the furniture of houses—for curtains—covering divans, &c., and those produced in the country are considered sufficiently good for the purpose, excepting by

such as wish to distinguish themselves by a *recherché ameublement*.

The cotton printing establishment employs between five and six hundred persons, and turns out annually one thousand five hundred pieces, each containing from thirty-eight to forty beaks.* The cost is two and a half piastres the beak—that of English printed cottons is three.

There is also an establishment at Boulak for printing handkerchiefs, and a copper-mill, which is the best conducted of the *Frank* establishments in Egypt. The steam-engine and all the machinery are English, and are placed under the able directions of Mr. Galloway, whose services are of inappreciable value to the Viceroy.

The copper used is from Russia, and is found to be more pure than any that has been furnished by either Spain or England.

The mill is almost exclusively used for preparing sheet copper for the navy. The sheets are not so substantial as those used for

* The beak, or pike, is a measure of twenty-two inches.

coppering the ships in our service—a piece of false economy, for which the Viceroy—as has already been stated—pays full dear, and for which his naval architects are alone to be blamed ; for parsimony is a vice, and one of the *very few*, which I have not heard laid to the charge of Mohammed Ali.

It was with extreme curiosity that I looked forward to a presentation to so extraordinary a man as the present Ruler of Egypt. So much has recently transpired relative to the policy and proceedings of Mohammed Ali, and so great has been the interest and curiosity with which all his movements have been watched by European powers, that I shall offer no apology for laying before the reader the following account of my introduction to this celebrated personage. It will, perhaps, be considered the more acceptable, as a circumstance occurred during my interview that afforded an opportunity of seeing more of his real character than one is generally fortunate enough to do on similar occasions.

Previously, however, to my presentation at

Mohammed Ali's *court*, accident had given me a sight of him. Strolling one morning through the citadel, a fine looking old man, mounted on a handsome charger, and attended by a single *sais* on foot, rode by me towards the gate leading to the city. He bowed on crossing my path, but fancying his salutation was intended for a friend—who, I imagined, was close behind me—I did not return it. He repeated this compliment, however, which of course I then acknowledged by a removal of my hat.

Waiting for the coming up of my friend, I inquired, “Who is that very polite old gentleman?”

“Who!—why, the Viceroy.”

“What! the merciless tyrant, Mohammed Ali?”

“The same.”

“And does he ride into the city without a guard?”

“Even so; you may see him there most days, if you will only be in the main street at his usual hour of taking exercise.”

So much, thought I, for the tales told in

England of the detestation in which this “sanguinary monster” is held by all classes of his subjects !

A few nights afterwards, my introduction took place. My visit was paid at night, it being during the Fast of the Rhamadan. The reception-room used on these occasions is in a palace contiguous to that of the Viceroy, which contains also many of the public offices and the apartments of the Secretary for the *Home Department*.

We alighted at a handsome portico, and, passing through a long wide passage, paved with slabs of marble, arrived at a kind of ante-room, crowded with attendants, dragomans, &c. From thence we passed into a large room, filled with persons of all kinds, making their prostrations most devoutly to the eastern cardinal point ; and from it we were ushered into the presence chamber, a long and handsome apartment, at the further extremity of which sat the Egyptian sovereign.

Mohammed Ali was attended by one only of his secretaries—a young Armenian—who

translated the Viceroy's conversation into French, styling him always "Son Altesse." The introduction was made without ceremony, the Consul-General merely mentioning the names of the different presentees.

His Highness repeated the names of each person very distinctly after him, and then requested us to be seated, adding we were welcome to his dominions.

In person, Mohammed Ali is short, and rather corpulent, but perfectly erect. His dress was studiously plain, being composed entirely of blue cloth. A handsome Cashmere shawl was folded round his loins; white silk stockings, yellow slippers, and a white muslin turban, completed his costume. He wore no jewels of any kind upon his person—not even a ring; but the pipe which he held in his hand and occasionally applied to his lips was blazing with diamonds and other precious stones.

He is decidedly a handsome old man; but his fine grey beard is hardly in keeping with his vivacity and personal activity. In the

expression of his quick and piercing eye, there is more of jocoseness than cunning; and, if his high and ample forehead does not give the lie to the assertions of his detractors, it forms the exception to the rules of Spurzheim; for never did I see the organ of benevolence “more strongly developed.”

A peculiarity in his mode of wearing the turban—close down over his eyes—takes off much from the fine character of his countenance, concealing his handsome forehead, compressing the eyebrows, throwing the eyes into shade, and giving them a sinister expression, which is foreign to them. But when, in the course of conversation, he becomes animated, and pushes back his turban, which he has a habit of doing, the unfavourable impression is instantly removed.

He conversed with much freedom, joked and laughed a great deal, and was evidently in a gossiping humour. Though he does not profess to understand the French language, yet it struck me that he had some knowledge of it, from the manner in which he often anti-

cipated the answers made to his observations, before the interpreter had translated them into Turkish.

Having been informed that I had lately travelled through the Delta, he asked me a variety of questions as to the route I had taken—what I thought of the state of cultivation, &c. I was rather amused, on one occasion, when the conversation *flagged* for a moment, at his jokingly desiring the interpreter to request the Consul-General to say something. “*Son Altesse dit, dites quelque chose !*” was the literal translation of the terms in which this unregal though sufficiently despotic command was conveyed.

Shortly after our arrival, we were presented with some thick sugarless coffee, served up in filagree silver cup-holders, richly set with brilliants. This, I was informed, was no inconsiderable honour. The Chibouque is a mark of distinction reserved for persons of very exalted rank, which, being estimated according to his Highness’s ideas, is oftentimes rather ludicrously bestowed.

As in all Turkish apartments, the furniture was very scanty, consisting merely of India chintz window-curtains, and a Divan round three sides of the room, the cushions of which were covered with the same materials.

From the ceiling a very handsome cut-glass chandelier was suspended ; and, on the floor, stood six massive silver candlesticks, with feet about a yard in diameter, and disposed in two rows, so as to form a kind of avenue leading up to the *presence*. A seventh, of a more portable size, was placed near the others, as I first thought, to make up the mystic number, seven ; but I afterwards found that it was kept at hand to enable the Viceroy to read any papers that might be presented to him.

Our visit lasted, altogether, about an hour. During the whole of that time, the apartment was open to all such persons as had the usual right of *entrée*, as well as to those whose names had been given in, as requesting an audience—if Foreigners, through the Consuls of their respective nations.

The Russian and Tuscan Consuls-General arrived shortly after I had taken my seat on the divan alongside his Highness, and remained during the whole time I was there; but the only other visitors besides Mr. Borgos, the Viceroy's Prime Minister, who came in on business for a few minutes, and continued standing) were, a Ulema, who took his seat at a respectful distance—swallowed in silence his cup of coffee, and then retired with a profound salaam—and a young man, who, unannounced and unattended, abruptly entered the apartment, walked hastily up to the Viceroy, and, with a soldier-like salute, presented a folded paper.

His Highness was conversing on some trifling subject with the Russian Consul-General, when this person entered the chamber; but I at once saw by his eye, which was quickly directed to the door, and by a slight elevation of the eyebrows, that something unusual had happened. The intruder was one of the numerous Poles, who, after fighting for liberty in their own country, had most

consistently come to Egypt to seek employment in the service of a despot.*

The Viceroy, after the first glance of surprise, gave no further indications of disturbed equanimity ; but, receiving the paper very graciously, bade his Secretary draw near with the seventh candlestick, to enable him to read its contents, whatever they might be.

The Pole, meanwhile, retired eight or ten paces, folded his arms across his breast, à la Napoleon, and fixed his eyes stedfastly, and somewhat ferociously, on the diplomatic agent of the Emperor of all the Russias, who affected, however, to be totally ignorant that anything extraordinary had occurred.

The Viceroy, having leisurely perused the petition, (for such I afterwards learnt it was,)

* There is, I willingly admit, much to be said in excuse for this inconsistency of conduct on the part of the Poles, whose exile from their country is not voluntary. But the conduct of those Frenchmen and others, who, quarrelling with the tyranny of the Bourbons, banish themselves from their native countries, to seek employment under the *mild* Mohammedan rule of Turkey and Egypt, is only to be accounted for by the same obliquity of vision that makes them, to this day, see in Napoleon the most constitutional, liberal, and beneficent Sovereign, that ever existed.

threw it carelessly on one side, directed his Secretary to say that an answer to it should be sent on the morrow, and resumed his interrupted conversation with the Russian Consul, as if nothing had happened.

The young Pole retired with a bow. His object had been attained. He had, under some false pretence, gained admission to the Viceroy's presence, and had, in it, insulted the Russian Emperor, in the person of his Minister. The petition for employment was but a mere pretext, Mohammed Ali having, but a few days before, declined the services of a numerous body of Polish refugees (some of them of distinction) who had come to Egypt in search of employment—having, at the same time, with a liberality not always to be met with in civilized Monarchs, ordered passages to be found for them to return to Europe at his own expense.

He could not but feel greatly annoyed, therefore, at the impertinent intrusion of this ungrateful foreigner ; the more so, as he was anxious to avoid anything likely to place him

on an unpleasant footing with the first Russian political agent that had been accredited to him, and who, as such, had been received with great distinction but a few days previously.

On taking our departure, we found that with whatever temper the circumstance had been treated by the Viceroy, it had created a considerable sensation in the ante-room. The gentlemen ushers appeared as fluttered as a flock of pigeons with a hawk amongst them. And how had the Pole obtained admission? With whom did the blame rest? were questions that were anxiously debating.

The cause of all this hubbub coolly lighted a cigar, and walked off, puffing away with undisguised satisfaction at having achieved so heroic an exploit. He was neither bastinadoed nor strangled—as many persons impressed with an idea of Mohammed Ali's tyranny will have anticipated—nor was he even sent out of the country, (which I think he most richly deserved to have been,) for I saw him repeatedly, during the remainder of my stay at Cairo,

following the idle and disreputable habit of street-smoking, to the detriment of his purse and digestion.

On issuing from the palace, what a contrasted scene of splendour and misery presented itself! The portico crowded with military officers—Ulemas, Nazirs, Dragomans, Malems, and the other numerous appendages of an Eastern Court, shone with Oriental gaudiness. The space beyond—thronged with a dense mass of barefooted urchins and half-starved donkeys, clothed and caparisoned with cast-off finery—had much the appearance of a rag fair.

Our ears were saluted, at the same time, with a Babel din of voices, proceeding from the tatterdemalion crew, each little ragga-muffin shouting out some few words of the language of his employer for the night, to attract his attention to the spot where his equipage was drawn up—such as “I say”—“quà ;”—“come here ;”—“ici,” &c. These uncouth sounds interspersed with sundry screams—peals of laughter and the loud in-

vectives of the Janizaries and Kawasses—who, with loud threats and indiscriminately-bestowed blows, cleared the way through the crowd for their respective masters—rendered this extraordinary scene a perfect Pandemonium. Its infernal character was improved by the numerous lights that flittered about in all directions; torches and lanterns being borne before the court visitors of modest pretensions; crackling faggots elevated on long poles, and throwing their sparks on the plebeian crowd below, before those of more exalted rank.

A Janizary having effected a passage for us through the motley assemblage, we mounted our donkeys and retraced our steps to the Frank quarter, having derived much gratification from a display so totally different from the pomp and ceremony attendant on a presentation at St. James's.

CHAPTER IX.

Visit to the Mosques at Cairo—Excitement produced amongst the Faithful by the Author's Presence—Prison of the Maniacs—Maniac Saints—Festival of the Beiram—Religious Procession—Sepulchres of the Mamalouk Sultans—Country Palace at Shoubrah—Ruins of Heliopolis—Holy Sycamore and Miraculous Well—Description of Ibrahim Pasha's Palace—Island of Rhodah—The Nileometer—Tombs of the Mamalouk Beys—Quarries of the Mokattan Hill—View from its Summit—General Remarks on Cairo—Nuisances in the City—Fabulous Imprisonments—Want of Society, &c.—Celebrated Magician of Western Africa—Specimens of his Art.

CAIRO possesses but few public buildings worthy of observation, excepting the mosques, some few of which are fine specimens of the Saracenic style of architecture. To see them is now no longer a matter of much difficulty ; and to do so to the best advantage, I embraced the occasion of the Beiram ; though, from that being the time when they are most crowded, it is, also, that at which there is greater danger attendant on visiting them.

Habited à-la-Turque—which is necessary—

and provided with a kawass (constable) by Habib Effendi—a kind of Sir Richard Birnie of the Egyptian metropolis—I joined a party to go the round of the principal mosques. I was not a little disappointed with my day's labour, for, with one exception, they are hardly worth the trouble of taking one's slippers off to see—much less of running the risk of getting one's ears cut off.

The largest is the mosque of Sultan Hassan, said to be a work of the thirteenth century. The interior is a large open square court, with shrines under fine bold arches, which span the centre of the four sides : that to the East being the only one now in use. From this, a bronze door, beautifully inlaid with silver, communicates with the body of the mosque, where a handsome tomb, placed directly under the dome, contains the ashes of the Sultan whose name it bears.

The dome of this mosque is considered the finest in Cairo ; and from its minarets a better view may be obtained of the city than from any other point within its walls, no part of it

being screened from view, which is not the case when seen from either the citadel or Mokattan Hill.

The mosque of Taglioum takes, however, with Christians, the first rank in the Egyptian metropolis, both from its antiquity and the beauty of the architecture. It was built by the Sultan Achmed Ebn Taglioum, about the year 887,* in honour of his father; and no pains appear to have been spared on the workmanship of its elaborately ornamented, but now crumbling walls.

This mosque consists of a vast open court, surrounded by a colonnade of marble and granite pillars, supporting a double row of arches, of the latest date of the Saracenic style. The capitals of the columns are richly but delicately carved, as are, also, the window-frames, and various portions of the walls,

* Achmed Ebn Taglioum threw off the allegiance of the Khalif of Bagdad, and founded a new dynasty of Sovereigns in Egypt, towards the close of the ninth century. But Cairo was only founded by Moez, the first of the Fatimite Khalifs of Egypt, in A. D. 968. This mosque, must, consequently, have been erected nearly a century before the city of Cairo was built.

giving the building, altogether, very much the character of the Moorish architecture of Spain. Indeed, the court bears a strong resemblance to the Patio de los Naranjos, adjoining the celebrated mosque at Cordoba—of which, as here, the minaret stands apart from the principal building.

The mosque of Taglioum is much neglected. We had not even to perform the penance of walking barefoot to the holy place, which is a small edifice standing in the centre of the court, and said to contain the tomb of the Sultan's father, after whom it is named. Very different is the repute in which is held the next mosque, to which we bent our steps—namely, that of Hassan and Hosein, (Hassan Ein) the two sons of Fatima—considered by far the most holy in Egypt; and, indeed, surpassed in sanctity by few in the Mohammedan States.

We were suffered to enter after some expostulation—having, however, to leave our slippers at the very threshold; but no sooner had we got in, than a murmur of disapprobation ran

through the devout followers of Ali, which shortly broke out into angry altercation with our conductor.

Such was the disturbance, that the city magistrate's officer was obliged to exhibit his insignia of authority (a silver-headed mace, about the size of a constable's staff, with several bells attached to it,) to keep the congregation in order. This personage gave us a hint to make our visit as short as possible ; but we determined, at all hazards, not to show the *white feather*, which probably would have been attended with disagreeable consequences.

Affecting, therefore, to be totally unconscious of the cause of the excitement—which, nevertheless, was sufficiently manifest—we finished our inspection of the tomb of the two brothers, contained in a glazed shrine, in a small inner apartment ; and sauntered, with as much nonchalance as we could muster, through the body of the mosque—a large apartment, of which the roof is supported by numerous painted pillars—and regained the

street by a different door from that by which we had entered.

Having done as much as we thought valour required of us, we conceived that we might, without shame, now follow the dictates of prudence, and therefore sent round for our donkeys and slippers, left at the gate by which we had gained admission, instead of again running the gauntlet of furious glances and grinding teeth through which we had passed; a step that in all probability saved us from being spit upon, at the very least.

This mosque, and that of Ali's daughter, (also held in great reverence) were the only two in which we found many persons assembled.

The last we visited was the mosque attached to the *Prison* of the Maniacs. It is more gaudily painted than any of the others, but possesses no one claim to admiration. The unfortunate beings for whose use it is destined are confined in iron-barred cells, placed round a large open court, like the cages of wild beasts in a menagerie, and are secured from doing mischief by heavy iron chains.

The poor creatures are nearly naked, and their cells—dark, damp, and filthy—smell most revoltingly offensive.

I was happy to find that the number in confinement was very small, and the females are kept in a court by themselves, from which all visitors are excluded.

The wretched inmates of this abominable dungeon are treated with kindness by their attendants, and are sometimes, in their lucid intervals, admitted to (what must indeed be to them) the comforts of the bath and of their religion. Music was formerly used to lull them into a quiescent state, but the practice has most wisely been discontinued; for though *music*—properly so called—has usually a soothing effect, yet *Arab music*—a noise produced by shrill pipes and a wet finger drawn across a parched buffalo's hide, which may be likened to a duet got up between a peacock and a hungry hyena—would of itself drive most people mad.

Some of the unfortunate beings were noisy, but few of them appeared to be very violent; indeed, their bodily weakness prevented that.

One, however, who recognized us to be Christians, in spite of our Mussulman garb, spoke a few words in Italian, named Stamboul, and abused Sultan Mahmoud, the recollection of whom produced a paroxysm of rage, and he grasped the iron bars of his cage, vainly attempting to tear them down.

A poor lad, about fourteen years of age, seemed to have arrived at the last stage of his miserable existence. He had crept close to the bars of his cell, as if to get a breath of somewhat purer air than that with which his horrible dungeon was poisoned ; and, with his forehead resting against the iron grating, his eyes half closed, and arms folded across his breast, seemed, with pious resignation, to be awaiting the termination of his life of misery.

It was the most piteous sight I ever beheld, and almost brought me to think that the manner in which maniacs are treated in some of the Barbary states is preferable to their condition here ; though certainly not so pleasant to those of the human species who

go about in the full possession of their senses.

In Morocco, for instance, they are looked upon as *saints*, and enjoy the privilege, *ex officio*, of abusing, ill using, and plundering any person they please, without let or hindrance. Outrages of the most diabolical kind have been perpetrated under this sanctified cloak.

The catalogue of maniac saints is—as might be expected, where such encouragement is given to people to be *beside themselves*—very copious; particularly as, in addition to the aforesaid privileges and immunities, and the assurance of the delights of the Mohammedan paradise hereafter, they are permitted to indulge in the unsaintly enjoyment of a well stocked hareem here below—to the manifest propagation of madness and imposture.

The Beiram, or Festival, that immediately follows the Fast of the Rhamadan, is a season of rejoicing to all classes, and the happy Moslem, who dies on the eve of it—or more correctly I should say, between the rising and setting of the twenty-eighth sun of

the Rhamadan—becomes, *ipso facto*, a saint. During the continuance of the festival, it is in vain to endeavour to procure boatmen, camel-drivers, or any other description of persons whose occupation would call them away from this scene of festivity. Indeed, after their long and trying fast, it almost amounts to cruelty to tempt them. I therefore gave up any idea of doing so, and employed the time which this involuntary detention left on my hands in collecting the following particulars relative to their enjoyments.

With the lower order, eating appears to be the principal delight of the Beiram ; but, as it is an occupation that must needs have a termination, jugglers, dancing girls, and rarée shows, are not wanting to afford them an intellectual feast, when the bodily one has been indulged in to repletion.

The women of all conditions are allowed, during this period, to receive the visits of their male relations, and many are the intrigues and amours carried on under this cloak for cousinship.

This period of rejoicing is, oddly enough, chosen for families to visit the tombs of their deceased relatives, and the burying places are crowded with tents during the whole of the Beiram.

The hareem of the Viceroy was encamped within the walls enclosing his mausoleum; Mohammed Ali not having in this respect been less provident than his predecessors; who, from the time of Cheops down to the present day, appear to have been in the habit of saving their successors the trouble of raising monuments to their memories. It stands amidst the tombs of the Mameluke Beys, outside the south wall of the city, and already contains the remains of several members of his family; amongst others, those of his two sons, Ishmael and Toussoun.

The procession of a Pasha's family, from its town house to the enjoyment of its sepulchral retirement, is attended with much pomp and ceremony. One which I accidentally witnessed, though on a small scale, was orientally magnificent in the display of superb horses,

gorgeous trappings, strapping eunuchs, and obese concubines. Its passage through the crowded streets was cleared by an advanced guard of Janizaries and Kawasses, armed with bamboos and corbashes, which they freely used on all sides.

At the head of the cavalcade rode, one by one, the male children of the great man. The wives followed, taking their places according to seniority (of matrimony—not age); next came the concubines; and a host of attendants, nurses, children, &c., brought up the rear.

The ladies were all muffled up in such a way, that it was impossible, excepting on the aggregate, to form any notion of their personal charms. Each was permitted the use of *one* eye; but this must have been by special favour, as every horse was led by a eunuch, and therefore required no *looking after*. Not so the ladies themselves, for they abused the indulgence granted them most wantonly, throwing glances about right and left, that caused sad havoc amongst the hearts of the bystanders.

The tombs of the Khalifs (as the splendid mausolea, standing to the north-east of the city, are usually but erroneously called,*) are also much resorted to, during the festive period of the Beiram. They are situated between the foot of the Mokattan Hill and the eastern walls of the city, covering a great extent of ground. Some of them are fine bold specimens of the Arabian style of architecture of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, during which they were mostly erected. The carved arabesque ornaments that decorated their walls must originally have been very handsome; but, being built entirely of the soft calcareous stone of the neighbouring mountain, and in a situation much exposed to the clouds of sand blown by the Khampseen wind from the desert, are now fast decomposing and crumbling to decay.

An old mosque, situated just outside the walls, on the north side of the city, exhibits

* No sovereign of Egypt was acknowledged by the spiritual title of Khalif, after the usurpation of the throne by Saladin. These mausolea are the work of the Mameluke Sultans who succeeded him.

as fine a specimen of the Saracenic style as any in this country. It is a large square building, on each side of which a pointed arched gateway communicates with the open court of the interior. Round this, the carved fretwork of the windows, and such portions of the wall as have not been damaged by the various uses to which the edifice has from time to time been applied, are extremely delicate and tasteful.

The Saracenic embattled parapet that crowned the walls has been destroyed, to make way for a loopholed one, more suited to modern warfare—a work of the French. Numerous fragments of marble and granite columns are lying about in the interior court, which denote it to have been ornamented with the spoils of some more ancient edifice. At present it is used as a government bakehouse.

One of the pleasantest rides about Cairo is to the country palace of the Viceroy, at Shoubrah, a village situated near the bank of the Nile, about four miles below the city. The route to it leaves Boulak to the left, and the

great Syrian road to the right, and is sheltered by a fine avenue of trees, which renders it an agreeable ride or drive at all seasons. The palace is small and inconvenient, but pleasantly situated on the very edge of the river, receiving in summer the benefit of the cool breeze that generally blows over the surface of the stream.

The Viceroy usually proceeds there during the festival of the Beiram, and resides at it from that time until the hot weather drives him to the sea-breezes of Alexandria. He lives at Shoubrah without pomp—almost without retinue. A small guard is generally encamped, for form's sake, in front of the palace; but any one can approach without the slightest difficulty. I have sometimes, at night, seen him seated at the window of his reception-room overlooking the Nile, exposed to the gaze of all who were passing up and down the river.

The gardens are much resorted to by the Franks, for admittance to them is never refused, excepting whilst the inmates of the hareem are taking their daily exercise. The

shrubberies are prettily laid out, and the walks agreeably shaded ; whilst the parterres, by means of constant irrigation, produce a succession of flowers that please the eye and impregnate the air with a delicious fragrance. A stroll in the gardens of Shoubrah is really a treat. It certainly is the paradise of Egypt.

The great wonder of the place is an immense marble reservoir, ornamented with *jets d'eau* ; fountains, &c. designed by Signor Drovetti, late Consul-General of France. It is a tasteless affair, and cost an immense sum of money—five times as much as the Viceroy intended to expend upon it.

Many fables relating to this wonderful lake have found their way to England—such as its being one of Mohammed Ali's favourite amusements to fill a boat with ladies of the hareem, have it pushed into the middle of the reservoir and there upset, that he might enjoy the fun of seeing them *swim for their lives* !

I was told that the ladies do lend themselves to such practices, and enjoy their ducking exceedingly ; which I could easily

understand ; the climate being hot, and the basin not sufficiently deep to admit of the possibility of their being drowned in it.

About three miles to the N. E. of Shoubrah, and six from Cairo, are the ruins of Helio-
polis. The direct road to them from the city is by way of Matarieh, passing, on the way to that village, through extensive plantations of young olive, acacia, and orange trees, the property of Ibrahim Pasha.

Nothing remains to mark the site of the once celebrated On, but a solitary granite obelisk, and the *enceinte* of its unburnt brick walls, now almost reduced to their original state of Nile mud. The obelisk is of rose-coloured Syenite. It is said that three others formerly stood here, two of which are the “Needles of Cleopatra” at Alexandria—the other, that erected in the Piazza di Monte Citorio, at Rome.

The obelisk that yet remains here is carved down each side with a single row of figures : it is clear to the very base, round which the Arab plough now annually turns the soil.

Each side of the base measures nearly seven feet ; but it is not perfectly square.

About a quarter of a mile to the south—concealed by a grove of orange and lime trees—is an aged sycamore, under which the holy family is said to have rested, on its flight into Egypt. The bark of this tree is reputed to have the miraculous faculty of never closing, so as to obliterate the names of the pious Christians that are carved upon it. A well near the spot was also in great favour with the devout Romanists, not many years back ; its water having performed the most wonderful cures on men and beasts. It is slightly impregnated with sulphur.

To the southward and westward of Cairo—stretching along the banks of the Nile towards Old Cairo, and embosomed in groves of orange, sycamore, and acacias—are some handsome palaces, the residences of the principal government officers and wealthy merchants. The most conspicuous amongst them is that of Ibrahim Pasha. It is built with more taste than usually finds its way into Egyptian edi-

fices, although still in the heavy Turkish style. The front is towards the citadel and Mokattan Hill; the back close upon the Nile, the bank of which has been cut down in terraces to the water's edge, so as to open the view of the stream to the lower windows of the palace. The terraces are laid out in shrubberies, and ornamented with statuary, which give them quite a European appearance.

The palace contains some handsome apartments, gaudy furniture, and a valuable collection of Egyptian antiquities—the Prince being one of the greatest explorers of the day. The latter were all packed away in boxes, and, to one not a master of the hieroglyphical language, there is so much sameness in their scarabei images and mummy cases, that we declined troubling the attendants to open any for our inspection.

In front of the palace are the extensive gardens and plantations which have been already noticed as occupying the plain between Old Cairo and the capital. They are also the property of Ibrahim Pasha; but are,

at all times, open to the public. In fact, the best and most frequented road, between the two places, passes through the centre of them. They are well irrigated, and, although they have been but a few years under cultivation, bring in a considerable revenue.

A short distance from Ibrahim's palace, higher up the Nile, is the Island of Rhodah, which is separated from the right bank of the river, by a narrow, but deep channel, which may be called the port of Old Cairo.

Almost the whole island, (and it is nearly two miles in length,) is the property of Ibrahim Pasha, who has had it laid out in pleasure grounds and gardens, which, but for the difficulty of unbending the rectilineal French taste of the *feu*-head gardener, might lay claim to the picturesque, and to the title of *English*, which they bear. These grounds are at most times open to all comers, but the necessity of crossing the stream in a boat causes them to be but little resorted to. This inconvenience (I was informed,) is about to be remedied by the construction of a suspension bridge.

The southern extremity of the Island of Rhodah is occupied by powder mills and magazines. There, also, is the celebrated Nileometer; which is neither more nor less than a graduated pillar, standing in the centre of a wide well, that communicates by a subterraneous channel with the river. The existing Nileometer is said to be only about nine hundred years old, which would make it a work of the Khalifs of the Abbasside dynasty.

On the left bank of the river, and nearly abreast of the Island of Rhodah, is the town of Ghizeh; which, though several miles distant from the celebrated pyramids, has, nevertheless, the honour of giving them its name. It contains some good houses, and was the favourite place of residence of the celebrated Mameluke Bey, Mourad, whose palace is now converted into a school for cavalry officers, which will be hereafter noticed.

No one, whilst at Ghizeh, should omit seeing the chicken *manufactory*, where two old men perform the maternal duties of as many thousands of the gallinaceous tribe. The

eggs are spread out on a flat surface of clay, in ovens, kept, of course, night and day, at a uniform degree of heat. The old men visit their charge constantly, turning the eggs with long poles, so as to bring every part of their surfaces in occasional contact with the clay bottom of the oven, which is somewhat warmer than the atmosphere.

It is an extraordinary sight! Every instant some little animal, in his struggles to enter this world of troubles, bursts his shell, and starts into life, (an orphan from his birth!) keeping the surface in a constant state of *agitation*. They are immediately taken out of the oven, placed in baskets, and sold by *measure*—every old woman in the neighbourhood buying a pottle of the miserable little creatures to take home and dry-nurse, until they are of an age to shift for themselves.

I believe this method of hatching chickens is common throughout Egypt, although I cannot state, on my own authority, that such is the case; if so, it may account for the degeneracy of the breed of fowls, for they are inva-

riably small, though the eggs are not much less than those usually met with in other countries.

The town of Old Cairo is immediately opposite the southern end of the Island of Rhodah, from whence there is a road which, leaving the gardens and plantations in front of Ibrahim Pacha's palace on the left, leads circuitously to Cairo. It passes amidst the ruins of the ancient Fostat, or Babylon, thence under the aqueduct, by which water is conducted from Old Cairo to the capital, and soon after reaches a cluster of domes and minarets—the tombs of the Mameluke Beys. These are situated at but a short distance from the Citadel, in a south-east direction.

Immediately beyond these tombs, rises the Mokattan Hill, the quarries of which are reputed to have furnished building materials for so many cities ; though I believe few people now place such faith in Herodotus as to imagine the ancient Egyptians were stupid enough to carry blocks from thence across the river to build the pyramids, which stand on a hill, consisting entirely of the very same descrip-

Engraved by T. H. Hamerton.

VIEW OF THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA AND TOMBS OF THE MAMMILLUKS IN EGYPT.

Engraved by C. Hullman.



tion of stone. Signor Rosellini has, nevertheless, discovered an inscription in a cavern on the side of the Mokattan Hill, which states—according to his reading of the hieroglyphical characters—that these quarries were opened “*to restore or build various temples at Memphis, and one at Thebes.*”

Of the correctness of this version of the story I entertain strong doubts; first, as regards Memphis; because, as before stated, the transportation of stone from the Mokattan quarries across the river, to build temples in a city, situated at the foot of a chain of hills composed of the same quality of limestone, implies a degree of ignorance on the part of the ancients that is altogether incredible. Secondly, as respects Thebes; because, in addition to making this same mistake, (the mountains perforated with the tombs of the kings, upon which the Egyptians must have been daily at work, being also of fine limestone), a still greater act of stupidity would have been committed, in sending to quarries situated *down the river* for an inferior quality

of stone to that which could be procured so much nearer *up the stream*—and of which, in fact, all the temples at Thebes were built—namely, the sand-stone of Hagar Silsilis*.

The quarries of the Mokattan Hill are sufficiently extensive to have built a hundred cities containing as little stone in them as Modern Cairo does, and, as I suspect, the ancient Memphis did.

The hill itself should be ascended by all lovers of fine scenery, for the view from it is magnificent. A rugged and deep ravine—on the edge of which the spectator stands—separates him from the rocky mound, whereon is perched the stronghold of the mighty Saladin, its dark, embattled walls, overtopped by the shining white palaces of the present ruler of Egypt. On each side, the city stretches far into the plain, presenting a forest of minarets, that lose nothing by being thus removed from

* Monsieur Champollion speaks, however, of a palace at Thebes, (called by him the Menephthéion), of which he *imagines* the greater part was built of limestone. I could not discover any trace of it. I saw some blocks of coarse gritstone in the foundation of the building (which is all, indeed, that remains) to which, I think, he alludes.

a close inspection — their architecture being rather of a picturesque than classical order. Beyond the city, the glassy Nile is traced, winding its way through the fertile plain of the Delta—the minarets and smoke of Boulak and groves of Shoubra breaking its monotonous flatness. On the right—appearing almost at the spectator's feet—are the ruins of the splendid tombs of the Sultans. On the left, the more recent and less aspiring mausolea of the Mameluke Beys. Beyond may be seen the towns of Ghizeh and Old Cairo, the wooded Island of Rhodah, the palace of Ibrahim Pasha, and the line of pyramids extending from Dashour to Ghizeh. The Lybian chain of mountains closes the view.

Although Cairo certainly looks better at a distance than it does within-side, or even near its walls, yet, in the course of the last few years, it has become quite another city from the wretched place it has so often been depicted by travellers. One French author, indeed, briefly describes it as “*Le plus grand amas de maisons du pays ;*” but numbers of

very good habitations—very different from the mud-houses of the other towns of Egypt—are now to be seen there; and improvements are daily going on, which, if persevered in, will make it far from an “*amas de maisons*,” or even a disagreeable place of residence.

The great nuisances formerly complained of in Cairo were dust, and the want of a free circulation of air. Both these evils were caused by the high mounds of rubbish which encircled the city—some of them elevated as much as one hundred and fifty feet above its level—and which, whilst they prevented the light refreshing northerly breezes from reaching the city, involved it in a cloud of dust whenever the abominable Khampseen wind set in.

These hills are now nearly all levelled, and the earth has been most beneficially used in filling up hollows and pools of water preparatory to laying out plantations. It is a matter of astonishment how these mounds were ever cast up. They are composed of matter of all sorts—broken pottery, scoriæ,

pebbles, sand, and earth; but I could not discover any traces of walls amongst those which were in process of levelling whilst I was at Cairo. A telegraph stands on one of them, near the road to Heliopolis, and is, I fancy, the only one that will be permitted to remain.

A change, almost as remarkable as that which has been effected in the city itself within the last few years, has, it is said, taken place during the same period in its climate; for rain, from which, excepting on the sea-coast, Egypt was formerly considered exempt, now falls frequently at Cairo during the winter months. On this point I can speak feelingly as well as confidently, for it rained every day during the whole period of my first visit, which was in the month of January; and I have also known it rain there even in May.

This change I have heard attributed to the numerous plantations that have lately grown up round Cairo. I doubt such being the cause—if change there has been—because, in the first place, the trees, though well grown and large of their kind, are still far below the

level of the Mokattan Hills, which might naturally be expected (unless there be some peculiar attraction in trees) to be more likely than any thing below them to detain the clouds, and cause them to fall in rain. In the second place, the rain which *now* falls in Egypt during the winter is general all over the Delta, in many parts of which there is not so much as a stick standing for miles. The rain is invariably brought by a northerly wind.

It must be admitted that Cairo is a remarkably dull city to live in, after one has seen all its sights, and those within a day's ride of it. It possesses no one place of public amusement for *Franks* — no private society, beyond an occasional formal dinner at the houses of the different European consuls — and no “Café,” nor “Bigliardo,” in which any person of respectability can show himself.

The traveller, therefore, whose *business* is amusement, must be content to sit cross-legged on his divan, and smoke away the evening. Books, excepting the usual common-

place works that are met with at a third-rate Italian book-stall, are not to be procured on any terms; and newspapers, unfortunately, arrive only once a month.*

The streets of an evening, especially during the beiram, are amusing enough for a short time, but one soon tires of Arab mirth and *fun*; and as for Arab music and dancing—the one is as discordant to the ear as the other is offensive to the sight. The streets may be walked in at all hours with perfect security; for robberies, as well as crimes of a more heinous nature, are now unheard of in Egypt. Petty thefts must, however, be guard-

* An association, under the title of “The Egyptian Society,” has lately been formed by the principal European residents of Cairo, which holds out great advantages to future travellers; offering, besides the resource of a library of reference, that of a point of union for social intercourse.

The secretary of the society, Mr. Walne, is an English medical gentleman, whose professional attainments render him a valuable acquisition to a place so constantly visited by Europeans.

Under the head of Alexandria, I ought not to have omitted stating, (for it is interesting information for travellers, particularly for liverless homeward-bound East Indians), that a talented English practitioner is also established in that city: and I willingly avail myself of this opportunity of bearing testimony to the kindness and attention of Dr. Laidlaw.

ed against, especially by such persons as have not faith in the retrieving powers of a magician.

The trade of conjuring is a very profitable one in this country, for, on any thing being lost, a magician is immediately sent for, who, after going through the mummary usually practised on such occasions, and extracting from his credulous employers a sum generally equivalent to the article lost, leaves the house with the grave but consoling assurance that, sooner or later, the missing property will indubitably be restored to its owner. If, by any chance, the article should be afterwards found, the magician obtains all the credit of the recovery ; and if not, the bereft wight still lives in hopes that it will eventually be spirited back to him, and the wise man loses nothing of his oracular reputation by the temporary delay in the fulfilment of his promise.

I cannot do better, whilst on this subject, than introduce my readers to the celebrated magician of Western Africa, whose wonderful necromantic power has been mysteriously al-

luded to by former travellers, as something that ought not to be lightly spoken of.

For a few dollars, I engaged this magician to come out to Old Cairo to exhibit his supernatural art to a party of friends assembled there one evening during the beiram. The following is a succinct account of the mummery he went through on the occasion, which, as I am informed, differed in no material point from that he is usually in the habit of practising.

We had, at his desire, provided a boy, who was not to be more than fourteen years of age; and we took care to select one who, we had every reason to believe, was a perfect stranger to him. The magician commenced his operations by writing some characters on a long slip of paper, in sentences of two or three lines each, drawing an ink line across the paper at the conclusion of each sentence. Then, after wiping the boy's forehead, (from which the perspiration was already starting from fright) he stuck another piece of paper, covered, like the former, with hieroglyphics,

under his scull-cap, so as to throw a shadow upon his eyes, and prevent his looking up.

Taking the boy's hand in his, the magician then described with ink a square figure in the palm, drawing divers figures all over it in a very mysterious manner, as if the result of profound calculation. Finally, pouring a considerable quantity of ink into the boy's hand, so as to form quite a pool, upon which he desired him to keep his eyes stedfastly fixed, forcing his head down, at the same time, to within a few inches of his hand.

As the Hebrew seers of old are said to have required the aid of music to excite the spirit of prophecy, so our magician seemed to think that a monotonous noise, (I have no doubt very like what Hebrew music was, judging from the way in which the Jews now sing their Psalms,) would assist him in the delusion of his victim. He accordingly began muttering, with great rapidity, some unintelligible jargon—mostly a repetition of the same words over and over again—until he was nearly breathless. Whilst so doing, he kept sprink-

ling some incense, coriander-seeds, and other things, into a charcoal fire, placed in a brasier by his side; and, after the space of some minutes, he committed to the flames one of the sentences which he cut off the long slip of paper. He then asked the boy if he saw anything, and, on his replying several times in the negative, observed that he feared the lad was very stupid.

Shortly after this remark, the boy—thus spurred into intelligence—exclaimed that he saw something.

“What is it?” asked the necromancer, with well-feigned eagerness—repeating his invocations with increased rapidity.

“It is a little boy,” said the lad.

“But has he not something in his hand?” asked the sage—“Does he not hold a flag?”

“Yes, yes, he has a flag.”

“Do you only see one?”

“Oh, yes, now I see two.”

In this way the boy was persuaded that he successively saw seven flags, seven tents, the Sultan, and, finally, a large army; and only

three of the mysterious slips of paper had yet been consumed !

Being quite satisfied with the success of this branch of his magic, we begged him to give us another specimen of his wonderful powers—upon which he requested us to name any person we pleased, saying that he would undertake to make him appear to the boy, who should describe him to us. He failed most completely, in every instance but one ; which, however, we did not think it necessary to tell him.

I asked to see Mr. —, a writer for a certain London newspaper, who happened to have recently arrived at Cairo. The boy described him as a stout personage, with a large head, wearing a white hat, and a black coat, and having the carriage of a Sultan.

Taking my cue from the magician, I asked what business had brought him to Egypt ? Whether he had not come to make Mohammed Ali Soldan ? He answered “ Yes, with a great deal of money, and loud *thunder*.” Such an announcement could not but cause great

amusement to the party assembled, and proportionate discomfort to the conjuror, who was quite at a loss to account for our immoderate merriment.

A lady of the party afterwards took the lad's place, submitting to the same ceremonies that had attended his mystification; and, though fully convinced of the absurdity of the juggle, and determined not to be persuaded into seeing anything, yet, ere ten minutes had elapsed, she fancied she saw a flag and two stars. We endeavoured in vain to persuade her that what she saw was but the reflection of her own eyes, and the shadow of the piece of paper dangling from her forehead; but she became so much excited, that her friends would not suffer her to remain longer under the magic influence.

The conjurer refused to try his art upon grown-up males. The delusion is evidently produced by gradually working upon feelings already predisposed, by superstition, or other causes, to the necessary state of excitement. The extraordinary power of association, as in

the diseased system of a dreamer, makes the victim believe that he sees anything brought to his imagination. The fumes of the incense, and unearthly sounds, were of themselves sufficient to cause a wandering in the boy's ideas; and the constrained position of his head, and fixedness of his eyes upon the shining surface of the pool of ink, (which reflected his own black face and bright eyes, *ad infinitum*,) may easily be supposed to have completed his mystification.

CHAPTER X.

Pyramids of Ghizeh — Discrepancy of Opinion respecting them—
Doubts as to the Correctness of the Order in which they are
usually stated to have been Erected—Remarks upon them—Inac-
curacies and Exaggerations of Herodotus — Comparative State-
ment of the Dimensions assigned to the Great Pyramid by various
Writers.

THE celebrated Pyramids of Ghizeh have been so often, so minutely, and, I may add, so differently described, that it may appear to be merely for the purpose of adding another variation to the long list that I say any thing about them.

Even their distance from the place which gives them their name is yet a matter of dispute, some accounts making it half an hour's ride, others estimating it at half a day's journey. I shall not attempt to decide which is nearest the mark, much less to correct the

conflicting measuring tapes of the numerous persons who have given the dimensions of these wonders of the world ; but, with respect to their distance from Ghizeh, I shall merely observe that the length of road to them depends upon the season of the year ; that is, whether the country be flooded or otherwise—the length of time to reach them, on the pace of your “ *monture* ”—and that, in the month of May, an ambling donkey carried me from the town of Ghizeh to the Pyramids in an hour and a half.

As to their dimensions, though I will take upon myself to affirm that the Great Pyramid never was eight hundred feet high, as stated by Herodotus ; yet, whether its present altitude is five hundred feet, as asserted by one modern traveller, or only four hundred and eighty-eight, as maintained by the French *savans*, I will not offer an opinion. I shall, however, attempt to reconcile their discrepancy, by supposing that the difference in the above measurements must have been occasioned by the accumulation of drift-sand and

“*decombremens*,” by which the bases of the Pyramids are concealed—a circumstance that would occasion a variation in the levels, from which their altitudes, at different periods, have been calculated.

I must confess that I am disposed, in this instance, to rely rather on the measurements of Belzoni, whom—as a pains-taking practical man, with the means generally at hand of removing all obstacles—I look upon as better authority than any *dilettante*, or even French *savant*.

I think, however, that he also leaves in uncertainty the disputed point respecting the number of stones composing the upper course of the Great Pyramid; of which, when I was at its summit, but *fourteen* remained. I do not suppose that number will ever increase—diminish it may, for several of the stones are very small, and it would be no difficult matter to throw them down. Upon any mischievous person who may hereafter do so (and that such a one will be found I have no doubt) I impute the blame, should my authority, in

consequence of such abstraction, be hereafter called into question.

These fourteen stones now form a kind of table, that occupies but a small part of the centre of the area of the second course of stones, the square of which is yet complete, and contains nine stones on each side.

A recent traveller in Egypt, by way of striking out something quite new, says that the granite coating of the walls of the passages and chambers of the Pyramids “turns out to be *cement* ;” adding, “with a *chisel* and *hammer* (!!!) I detached flakes of it from the interior.” And he is right, too — but it is a cement made by no mortal hand—a mortar carried in no mortal’s hod. It is the same cement as that of which the celebrated Obelisks of Luxor, Karnac, and Heliopolis, are composed — in which the statues of Sesostris and Memnon are moulded ; a cement, in fine, made in the quarries of Elephantine and Syene ; a compound of quartz, mica, and felspar, generally known amongst geologists by the name of *granite* ; and which, when in a

state of decomposition, will easily come off in flakes, even without the aid of a chisel and hammer.

There is one point respecting the construction of these celebrated monuments, on which, as it appears to me, most ancient and all modern travellers are at fault ; or if this is not the case, that there must be a strange blunder in the account of them handed down to us by Herodotus. It is, that the Pyramid which we have been accustomed to consider as that of Cheops, or the great one, is, in point of fact, that which Herodotus describes as the lesser, or that of Cephern, and *vice versa*.

I am not aware whether this opinion has the merit of novelty — like the casing of cement — but, in support of it, I shall briefly state what Herodotus says in his account of these pyramids, and leave it to those who can to reconcile it with the present state of things ; and though he wrote like a very Greek, exaggerating and embellishing every thing he saw as well as heard, yet it may be presumed he

did see the pyramids of Ghizeh, since he mentions certain peculiarities about them, that a narrator would hardly have thought of describing to him.

Passing over his granite causeway — which no one ever did pass over — his exaggerated statement as to the dimensions of the Pyramids—which some change in the standard of measures may partially account for—and his fabulous legend of the means employed in their construction—we come to his general description of them, in which, speaking of the great Pyramid—or that which he says was built by Cheops—he gives us clearly to understand that it was situated in an island formed by introducing the water of the Nile; and, speaking afterwards of the manner in which it was constructed, he observes, “The summit was first of all finished—descending thence, they regularly completed the whole,” &c.

With respect to the second pyramid, he says, “His (Cheops) brother Cephern succeeded to the throne, and he also built a

pyramid, but this was less than his brother's, for I measured them both, and it has no subterraneous chambers, nor any channel for the admission of the Nile, which in the other surrounds a plain, where the body of Cheops is said to be deposited," &c.*

Now, his making the Nile flow so as to surround one of the pyramids is the most gross of all his fictions ; for, had it done so, it would have flooded all the temples and tombs built round the pyramid—more particularly those cut in the rocky counterscarp of the ditch itself—and swamped completely his favourite theory of the gradual rise in the level of the country ; since the hill on which the pyramids stand is, at the present day, at least one hundred feet above the level of the plain bordering the Nile. It is evident that Herodotus can only have meant the *fosse* by which *one* of the pyramids is actually surrounded, since to suppose that the hill on which *both* the great pyramids stand was isolated would be con-

* I quote from Beloe's translation—considered, I believe, the closest.

trary to what he expressly states, and could only have been effected by cutting a deep channel through the rocky ledge that connects the knoll on which the pyramids are erected with the Lybian chain of mountains : and such a gap could not possibly have been so completely filled up as to leave at this day no trace whatever of its having existed.

Herodotus states distinctly, however, as above quoted, that *one* of the great pyramids was surrounded by a fosse, and that the other was not, and such *is* the case to this day. But he says it is the great one, or that of Cheops, which is encompassed by a ditch ; whereas, in the order in which they are now distinguished, it is just the reverse ; and, though it might easily be conceived that, since the time of Herodotus, (when it is to be presumed they were kept free from the drift-sand in which they are now partly buried) a fosse might have been filled up round the one, yet it cannot for a moment be supposed that a ditch (such as now exists) *would have been dug* round the other.

Again, Herodotus affirms that the pyramid of Cheops (that stood in the fosse) was finished with a coating of marble. This also makes it clear that he considered that one the larger of the two, which we look upon as the lesser. For, although but a small portion of the coating (and that *not* of marble) remains near the summit of the one we are in the habit of calling the *second*, yet there is no trace whatever of any casing ever having been put upon the other; and it is not at all likely that the stones composing it would have been all carried away for the construction of other buildings, since triangular blocks would hardly have been preferred to square ones, which might have been procured from the same pile with as little trouble.

The casing of the pyramid in the fosse (if it ever were completed) may have been taken off in attempts to discover the entrance. That a part of it has been displaced is proved by the fact that Belzoni — in clearing away the accumulation of rubbish and sand that surrounded this pyramid, in order to arrive at

the entrance—found a quantity of the pieces used in the coating, that had fallen down, or rather that had been thrown down ; as, from the manner in which the casing stones fitted into the steps, they could not well have fallen, unless force had been used to displace them.

Whether Herodotus erred in his statement of the relative heights of the two great pyramids is also a debateable point. On this subject he says, that the height of the pyramid of Cephern is forty feet less than that of his predecessor ; which pretty well agrees with the difference of altitude assigned to them according to our present manner of distinguishing them ; yet, I much doubt, if both could be measured from their actual bases, whether that which has been called the second (as being inferior in height) would not be found to be the higher of the two.

When viewed from a distance, the difference in their altitude is barely perceptible, but *one* loses much of its actual height from standing, as it does, in a ditch ; for, whilst the Great Pyramid, (as it is called) occupies the summit

of the rocky ledge, the hill itself has been cut down and scarp^d, so as to form absolutely part of the other.

Their altitudes have probably been latterly measured at a spot equidistant from them, and the height of their summits taken, from a common artificial horizon, instead of from their respective foundations. I come to this conclusion, from not having myself been able to find any clear spot at a sufficient distance from the pyramid in the fosse for taking its altitude ; where both its base and summit could be seen.

The statement of Herodotus that one of the pyramids contained chambers, and that the other *did not*, has been proved of late years to be erroneous. At the period at which he wrote, such very probably (excepting by the priesthood) was supposed to be the case. It is not unlikely, however, (and such a supposition agrees with his account) that it was the second pyramid (as we call it) which was, in his time, publicly known to contain chambers, and the other that was considered the solid one.

This may easily be conceived, when the revolutions by which Egypt was, for so many successive ages convulsed—the great changes that were thereby effected in the habits, manners, and religion of its inhabitants; and its prostration before repeated conquerors—are borne in mind.

In those eventful days, the arts and sciences in Egypt were completely at a stand, and the very language of the country underwent a change. It should not, therefore, excite surprise, that all knowledge relating to the pyramids was lost amidst the general devastation. Indeed, but for the writings of Herodotus, *all* of those stupendous piles might possibly, even to the present day, have been regarded as solid.

Had not Belzoni discovered an inscription on the wall of the great chamber of the pyramid he opened, no one would ever have supposed that it had been entered before—so completely had all knowledge of that circumstance been lost.

With such doubt and perplexity on the

subject, therefore, though it may be fairly admitted that, when Herodotus wrote, *one* pyramid only was known to contain chambers ; why should it be taken for granted that it was that one which contained them, which he most distinctly says *did not* ? Is it not, on the contrary, more likely that the pyramid which Belzoni opened was that which, in the time of Herodotus, was said to contain the body of Cheops ? and which led, twelve hundred years after, to the other's being explored by the Khalif Mamoun ? *

It is probable, that after the visit of the Khalif, this pyramid was never again closed ; whereas, the contents of the other having always been known, it was allowed to remain shut up ; and thus, in the course of time, that other (i. e., the pyramid in the fosse) came to be considered the solid one. But this, being at variance with the statement of Herodotus, led to its examination by the Sultan Ali Mohammed, who having closed it up again, (as he stated he should do in the inscription found

* According to others, Haroun al Raschid.

on the wall of the chamber when opened by Belzoni) occasioned it soon after to be again regarded as a solid structure.

With respect to the period of the erection of the two great pyramids of Ghizeh, tradition was the only authority Herodotus had for attributing them to Cheops and Cephern. I should say it is much more likely they were built by Sesostris and his successors, it being related of that celebrated conqueror that he employed the numerous captives made in his wars on the public works executed by his orders in Egypt. As there are not even any hieroglyphics upon the pyramids to decide this point, we must make up our minds to remain in ignorance upon it, unless indeed some ingenious person should discover, *elsewhere*, some combination of geese and beetles that has a reference to the builders of the pyramids.

By whatever kings they were erected, it appears to me that the Pyramid that was first built is the one most likely to have been completed.

Now that which we have been in the habit of calling the *second*, clearly was finished with a smooth coating; whilst the other, which has always been called the Great Pyramid, and considered the mausoleum of Cheops, and the first built, evidently never was completed.

Another reason that induces me to think they were erected in this order is, that man is ever impelled, by an innate feeling of ambition, to endeavour to surpass whatever has been done before; whether in the erection of a Pyramid, or in the performance of more meritorious actions. I can hardly think, therefore, that the builder of the second Pyramid (whoever he may have been) would have placed his monument by the side of one that was already standing, without endeavouring to surpass it in grandeur.

Now, in the case of the two Pyramids, the idea appears to have naturally suggested itself to the builder of the second, that, by erecting his Pyramid on *higher ground* than the other, and giving it a slight increase of

width, it would have the *appearance* of greater size, without incurring the expence and labour that the actually making it larger would entail.

It is difficult, on the other hand, to imagine any mortal, so ambitious as to build a pyramid, and yet so modest as to place it in a ditch, alongside one erected by his predecessor, on the brow of a hill. Such must, however, be supposed, if the appellation of *second* to that so situated be correct.

Yet one more reason for supposing that the Pyramid, we have been in the habit of considering the second, in the order of their erection, is in reality that which was built first, is, that it stands nearer the site of Memphis than the other, (which it may be taken for granted was the capital of that portion of Egypt, at the time they were built,) and that is, of all others, the point from whence the lower pyramid is seen to the least advantage, in comparing it with the other situated above it.

The interiors of both the great Pyramids are now as well known as that of Caius Cēs-

tius at Rome, the passages and chambers of which, by the way, show that, at the time of its erection, the Romans were perfectly acquainted with the interior of one or other of the Egyptian Pyramids.

The chamber which contained the sarcophagus in the upper pyramid is cased with granite; but the principal chamber of the pyramid in the fosse is entirely of lime-stone. Its walls are cut out of the solid rock, but the roof is composed of huge slabs, resting against each other, giving it the form of the roofs of our modern houses.

The passage leading into the interior of this pyramid (which dips at an angle of twenty-six degrees with the horizon,) is, for some distance, cased with granite; but the latter part of it is cut out of the solid rock. In the walls of the ditch, on the north and west sides, numerous tombs and temples have been excavated; the entrances to them are on a level with the bottom of the fosse: and over the doorways of a few, hieroglyphics and figures are carved.

In the face of a scarped rock, about a quarter of a mile to the south of the great pyramids, is a Hypogean temple, the entrance of which is also decorated with figures and hieroglyphics.

The Arab guides were averse to my entering, it being now the habitation of a Santon, but, having some curiosity to see how a Moslem saint lived, I walked in. The good man was absent, however, and, excepting that there was an old lamp hanging up, I saw nothing to denote that any one was ever at home there.

The great Sphynx is to the eastward of this temple; no part of it but the head could be seen, the sand drifts so constantly upon it. It stands on a much lower level than the pyramids.

The ascent of the Great Pyramid is by no means either so difficult or wearisome an undertaking as I was led to suppose; nor is the view from the summit in any respect so fine as I had pictured it to myself. To the eastward, the range of the eye is very limited,

as the Lybian chain of mountains, (if mountains they here can be called), being close at hand. Its long even summit—covered with *perpetual sand*—is not a pleasing object, and it even shuts out the wavy perspective of sand-hills, that, if it were absent, the eye would look over; a prospect, which, if devoid of all beauty, has the grandeur of boundless extent to recommend it.

In another direction, a “terrestrial sea,” (to use the expression of a German author), certainly does spread its monotonously smooth and tranquil surface to the very extremity of the Delta; whilst, to the south and west, the view is confined to the mere valley of the Nile. Cairo is too indistinctly seen, under the Mokattan hills, to enliven the picture; and the hill itself—having at the best of times a tame outline, when viewed from the south—sinks at such a distance into perfect insignificance.

With respect to the third pyramid, as it is called, (and said to have been built by Mycerinus, the son of Cephern), Herodotus is perfectly incomprehensible. By his account,

this pile, though but three hundred feet in height, wants but twenty feet of being as high as that of his father, which he had previously stated was within forty feet of the altitude of the pyramid of Cheops; and this last he says was eight hundred feet high!—To have been consistent, he should have made the difference four hundred and sixty feet, instead of twenty, between the height of the pyramid of Mycerinus and that of his father Cephern.

I shall conclude my observations on the pyramids of Ghizeh by submitting a comparative statement of the dimensions of the great one, as given by a few of the *differing* travellers by whom it has been measured—availing myself of the opportunity to correct an error into which many persons have been led, in supposing that the base of the Great Pyramid is equal to the area of Lincoln's Inn Fields. Even according to the exaggerated statement of Herodotus, it would barely fill up that space, whilst other measurements have clipped it down until it would stand without a squeeze

within the area of Russell Square; where
I shall take the liberty of leaving it:

According to	Perpendicular Height.		Width at the Base.	
	Feet.		Feet.	
Herodotus	800		800	
Diodorus Siculus	600		700	
Thevenot	520		682	
Greaves	444		648	
Denon	488		716½	
Madden	500		728	
Wilkinson	474		732	

CHAPTER XI.

Departure from Cairo — Voyage up the Nile — Duties of “Dick,” the Arab — Cure for Indolence — Adverse Winds on the River — Labour of the Boatmen — Village of Mitraheeneh — Description of the Colossal Statue discovered by Caviglia — Supposition respecting it — Site of Memphis — Conquests of the City — Ruins at Sakara — Character and Habits of the Fellahs — Remarks on the Pyramid of Sakara — A Visit to the Interior — Aspect of the Country — Encroachments of the Sands — The Pyramids of Dashour.

THE Beiram being at length concluded, our cange ballasted with a good store of ammunition and provisions, the crew of Arab boatmen, (now nothing loath to be put on the pay-list) collected, and the wind fair, we bade adieu to old Cairo on the night of the 15th of February—a period generally deemed full late for ascending to the first Cataracts, on account of the prevalence of southerly winds in the early part of March.

The party consisted of my friends D——, C——, and myself, our three servants, and a

boat's crew of seven sailors and a Reis (coxswain).

Each of our domestics was, according to the military phrase, "told off" to the execution of some particular duties. My invaluable Arab ("Dick") was appointed dragoman, marketman, and bastinadoman: (the latter office soon became a sinecure). A lazy Maltese was installed in the offices of *camerière*, *bottiglière*, *cafedgee*, and *chibookdgee*: and a most trustworthy North Briton had imposed on him, in addition to the general charge of the *hold*, the difficult task of concocting daily a varied and *recherché* dinner, from a very limited number of ingredients. This duty he discharged with infinite credit to himself and the pigeons, ham, rice, cheese, maccaroni, and curry-powder, with which he was provided.

Our Arab sailors, with one solitary exception, were tractable and well, though lazily, disposed men. Their disinclination to work was speedily overcome, however, by the still greater dislike they entertained for *corbache*. A very slight taste of that discipline, ad-

ministered soon after starting, prevented all necessity for our again having recourse to it during the voyage.

Travellers ought, nevertheless, to bear in mind, that these poor, (and on their first setting out certainly) ill-conditioned, beings, cannot possibly work like well-fed English sailors; and, although the wind from the month of December to March is generally from the north, so as to render but little exertion necessary on the part of the crew in ascending the stream, yet it will sometimes provokingly blow, even at that period of the year, right down the river for several days together.

If in such a case the wind is very strong, it is useless to attempt making way against it, as there is, besides, a current running at the rate of two miles and a half an hour to combat. If, on the contrary, the adverse wind is light, by keeping out of the strength of the stream, the boatmen will generally tow a light cange at the rate of a couple of miles an hour. But even this is hard work, and they must, like other people, be allowed time to get food and re-

pose, though some persons are unconscionable enough to expect them to continue at this laborious occupation day and night.

The best plan is, to *see* that they work during the day, and they will take very good care not to pull either a rope or an oar after your eyes are closed for the night. We gave directions to the Reis, on retiring to bed, not to go past the village of Mitraheeneh, the nearest point to the pyramids of Sakara, which we purposed visiting. Accordingly, on waking in the morning, we found our boat made fast to the bank, not far from the village, and a congregation of donkeys and guides awaiting our landing; each little animal being extolled by his proprietor as the fastest, most sure-footed, and least self-willed, in all Mohammed Ali's dominions.

After getting some breakfast we landed, and, sending our boat on to wait for us at Meskhouneh, (a village some miles higher up the river), proceeded to visit the huge piles, which appeared at this distance to be within pistol-shot of us.

On our way, at about a mile from Mitra-heeneh, we saw the colossal statue discovered some years since by Signor Caviglia, whose property* by the grace of Mohammed Ali it is permitted to be. It lies most fortunately upon its face, as from that circumstance it has in all probability been preserved from the iconoclastic hammers of *curiosity collectors*.

The figure is perfect to the knees, and is one block of compact limestone. The face is in an excellent state of preservation. The features are decidedly those of the native Egyptian—or more correctly I should perhaps say, of the present race of natives: from whatever people it may have sprung, the prominent eyes, high cheek-bones, and protruding lips, all agree with the features of the bronzed inhabitant of middle Egypt: and, although the conjunction of these peculiar features in a countenance does not, according to general opinion, constitute *beauty*, yet I think, taking it altogether, this face of Sesostris, (or whoever

* In conjunction, I believe, with Mr. Sloane, the British Vice-Consul at Alexandria.

it may be), is the handsomest of Egyptian conception that I have any where seen *chiselled* :* I mean, of course, to except those executed at a later date, after Grecian and Roman models.

I do not know whether the lower part of this statue has ever been found : if not, it would be desirable to make search for it ; and although it would be difficult to point out the precise situation where the statue stood—as, lying with the face downwards, and to the west, it must, if it were not turned after its fall, have been moved from the spot where it was erected—yet, from the perfect state of the features, it would appear that it had not been purposely thrown down, with a view to its destruction. The missing portion of the statue, therefore, probably, lies buried at no very great distance from the spot where the body of it was discovered. †

* I will not even except the statue called also of Sesostris in the Museum at Turin, to which it certainly bears some resemblance ; the features of that now lying at Memphis being, however, of a more manly and sterner cast.

† None of the old temples on the left bank of the Nile face the west ; and it is natural to suppose that the front of this, above all

The height of this statue, when perfect, must have been about five-and-thirty feet. Its discovery was highly interesting, as setting at rest the disputed point as to the site of the far-famed Memphis; for there can be no doubt that this is one of the two colossal statues, which, it is recorded, were placed by Sesostris in front of the Temple of Vulcan (*i. e.* Ptha.) With the dimensions of these, as given by Herodotus, it accurately agrees—namely, thirty cubits, or forty-five feet; that, compared with my own supposition, being the precise scale of either his exaggeration, or our misconception, of his standard of measures.

The distance of the spot where the statue was discovered from the Pyramids of Ghizeh also perfectly agrees with the account of the situation of Memphis, as given by Pliny—namely, two leagues from them, in the opposite direction from the Delta.

others, would have been towards the river; in which case, had the statue fallen or been thrown forward, it would have lain with the head to the east—if backwards, the face would have been up.

The foundation of Memphis is ascribed to various persons ; but, as the world is generally fond of the marvellous, the honour is usually given to Menes, “the first king of mortal race who governed Egypt,” and who is said to have lived some twelve or thirteen thousand years before the vulgar era.

The city is stated (and this part of the story certainly deserves more credit than the foregoing,) to have been built on ground that was originally a morass, and had been drained and secured from the periodical inundation of the Nile by mounds of earth. Its gradual decay, therefore, and final disappearance from the face of the earth, are not to be wondered at, when the repeated disasters that befel it are borne in mind.

Captured and plundered by Nebuchadnezzar, (B. C. 567,) it had not time to recover from that misfortune, under the peaceful reign of Amadis, when it fell a prey, under that of his successor, to the ferocious Cambyses, who, though he permitted the city yet to exist, destroyed the temples, and scattered their

priests. It again experienced the fate of a conquered city, in the attempts made by the Egyptians to throw off the Persian yoke, during the reigns of Darius and Xerxes—and, finally, of Artaxerxes Ochus (B. C. 355,) by whom, probably, its walls were destroyed, as it appears to have been incapable of offering resistance to the victorious Alexander.

Ptolemy Soter having made Alexandria his capital, Memphis sank into insignificance, and probably owes its final destruction to some unusual rise of the Nile.

I have no doubt but that any person, who would incur the expense of excavating to some depth in the neighbourhood of Metraheenah, would find very extensive remains of the ancient Memphis, of which the plain about Sakara was, perhaps, merely the Necropolis.

The village of Sakara is another mile from the river, beyond the spot where the great statue lies. We proceeded there to procure guides, lamps, and tapers for exploring the interior of the principal pyramid of the groupe

that is distinguished by the name of the village.

These requisites we had no difficulty in obtaining at the house of a Frenchman, who leases a farm there under the Viceroy. He represented "Son Altesse" as being a very good landlord ; but complained bitterly of the indolence of the Fellahs. He gave them a good character, however, in other respects, describing them as tractable and abstemious ; though much of the merit of the latter virtue he ascribed to the constant use of the pipe, by which their appetites become deadened, and in which they indulge—to use Monsieur Teddi's own words—at the plough, in the cotton-field, "*sur le champ de bataille—au lit nuptial.*" Monsieur Teddi, I ought to have premised, is a "*vielle moustache*" of the army that conquered at Heliopolis, Austerlitz, and Moscow, and looks upon himself as a kind of Themistocles.

The principal pyramid at Sakara, which by the way is rather a series of frusta of pyramids, (six in number) placed one upon another, is

built of stone quarried from the hill, (or more properly *rise*) on which it stands.

The blocks are by no means large, but they appear perhaps less than they really are, from being placed with their ends towards the surface of the pyramid.

It appears to me that the pile had been originally built as a perfect pyramid, and that the steps, or frusta, were formed afterwards by the addition of successive coatings, commencing near the top, and increasing fourteen feet in each gradation. Each face presents, (as far as I was able to judge by examining such parts as had been broken away), an even surface of wrought stone to the very base of the pile, but the backing-in blocks are rough, and of a coarser and more decomposed limestone.

The entrance is on the western side. You descend to it (at least twenty feet) by a kind of well, which we found completely choked up with sand. It was a work of some labour to clear this away; we were then obliged to crawl in upon our hands and knees for the

first twelve or fourteen yards, an Arab preceding us with a light.

The passage is very narrow and crooked, and slopes downwards at a considerable angle. The various passages leading off right and left are now blocked up—that conducting to the main chamber alone being practicable.

This apartment is spacious and lofty, and perfectly dry, but in a very dilapidated state. Some huge blocks of syenite—evidently the *débris* of the sarcophagus which contained the remains of the great personage whose name this stupendous edifice was intended to rescue from oblivion—lie scattered about. There are no traces of figures or hieroglyphics upon them, nor of paintings nor inscriptions upon the walls of the chamber.

The huge granite blocks of the sarcophagus are far too large to have been brought into the chamber by the narrow crooked passage by which we entered ; I therefore rather incline to the opinion that the tomb was built before the pyramid, than to that which supposes a passage to have been left sufficiently large to

admit the blocks, and closed afterwards. From the peculiar construction of the pile, and the manner in which the stones composing it are put together, such afterwork—without throwing an arch, or adopting some other means of supporting the immense weight of the superincumbent mass—would have been extremely difficult of execution, and could not, indeed, have been effected without leaving traces by which it would be detected to this day.

Very little cement has been used in the construction of this pyramid, and that little is of a very bad quality, and appears only to have been *run in* to fill up the interstices at the back of each layer of wall, to unite it, as it were, with the face of the preceding coating.

From the pyramids of Sakara to those of Dashour is a distance of three miles. The surface of the country exhibits a succession of conical mounds—the ruins of other pyramids—strewn with dilapidated tombs and broken sarcophagi—and *honeycombed* with mummy pits.

Some of the tombs are built of cut stone,

are arched over, and sculptured with hieroglyphics; and many of the sarcophagi are very handsome, being of fine red granite and porphyry. The ground is a soft calcareous stone, in parts very much decomposed.

The range of hills bordering the plain has a mammillated surface, that gives it very much the appearance of a mound covered with decayed or unfinished pyramids. From this striking peculiarity in the formation of the ground, I am inclined to think originated the idea of cutting these tumuli into sepulchres, and afterwards erecting pyramids upon them; for this formation is not peculiar to any one part of the Lybian chain, but prevails along the whole range from Ghizeh to Benisouef.

The sands of the desert have encroached gradually upon the bed of the valley, the Lybian chain, which is here very low, offering but little impediment. In some places, indeed, they have covered the entire face of the country, occasionally filling up the little lateral valleys to a considerable depth.

The most exposed parts of the sand-hills

are thickly strewn with agates of a very large size, particularly round the bases of the pyramids of Dashour, as they are commonly designated, though known in the country (as well as that just described) as of Sakara. They are three in number : one is a perfect pyramid of the same construction as those of Ghizeh. It is built of larger blocks than that of Sakara, but the stone is of the same nature. The opening is on the north side, about thirty feet above the present level of the mound on which the pyramid stands.

The next structure, which is somewhat larger than the foregoing, is composed of a pyramid resting on the frustum of another, of which the sides are at a greater angle of elevation, (but not *perpendicular*, as stated by Belzoni) giving it—when viewed from some distance — the appearance of being undermined or *worn* at the angles.

The surfaces of both planes are perfectly smooth, the stones forming the coating being bevelled off to their respective angles of inclination.

These two pyramids fall but little short of the dimensions of the great pyramids of Ghizeh — their bases being six hundred feet square, their perpendicular height three hundred and thirty, and three hundred and forty feet. The third pyramid of Dashour, called the Black Pyramid, lies a little to the eastward of the others : it is a mere heap of ruin.

CHAPTER XII.

Etwal—Description of the Pyramid of Ereekeh—Its peculiar Construction—Bahr Yousef—Bridges—Prosperity of the City of Benisouef—Cavalry Horses—Brick Pyramid of Illaoum—Beautiful View—Productiveness of the Province of Fayoum—Lake Mæris of Herodotus—Voyage up the Nile continued—Picturesque Situation of Abounour Malateeh—Samalout—Town of Minieh—Benihassen—Description of the Tombs there, and Remarks of Monsieur Champollion's Account of them—Sugar Manufactory at Ereramoun—Process of Clarifying the Sugar—Distillation of Rum—Town of Melawi—Aspect of the Country.

WE regained our boat late in the evening, and, being anxious to profit by every breath of fair wind, continued our voyage throughout the night, “bringing to,” on the following morning, abreast of the village of Etwal—to the south-east of which stands the Pyramid of Ereekeh, or Medoun.

The huge pile had a magnificent appearance as we sailed up the river. The early sun shone brightly on its white sides, whilst, from the windings of the stream, the lowness

of the banks, and the effect of mirage, it seemed at times to rise out of the river itself. It is distant, however, five miles from Etwal, the village of Saft being situated about half way.

This monument, as well as that of Sakara, appears to have been a pile of frusta, surmounted by a perfect pyramid: but so many of the stones have been carried away for the construction of some public work in the neighbourhood, that it is difficult to form an idea of what it once was. Like those of Ghizeh and Sakara, it is built of the stone of the hills on which it stands. Indeed, the base of the pyramid is in great part the native rock, carved to the slope of the planes of its sides.

The blocks, of which the facing of the successive casing walls is built, are immense, finely chiselled, and of a beautiful chalky whiteness. The workmanship is remarkably good, the stones being fitted to each other with the greatest nicety, without the aid of cement; in fact, mortar is used only for the backing in of each wall.

There is a peculiarity in the construction of this pyramid that I did not observe in any other, namely, that the different courses of stone are not laid horizontally, but (in technical phrase) with a batter inwards. This method—which has usually been considered a modern improvement in the art of building—tends to offer a greater degree of resistance to the pressure of an internal but superincumbent mass.

The nature of the country round this pyramid is precisely similar to that about Dashour. The pyramid is distant about a quarter of a mile from the Bahr Yousef, or rather the remains of that celebrated canal; for, excepting a slightly marked fall in the ground, and here and there a pool of water, no trace now remains of its existence in this part of Egypt.

At Mitraheeneh, it is true, there is a bridge, but it looks as much *out of its element* as the great archway at the upper end of the Green Park, which the road does *not* pass under—for neither here does any water pass under the bridge.

Near Dashour there is also another bridge, but of this we had no occasion to take advantage, the bed of the canal being perfectly dry a few hundred yards to the south.

We proceeded on our voyage about mid-day, and reached Benisouef at night. It is a tolerably large town, situated on the western bank of the Nile, and is the *entrepôt* for all the produce of the fertile valley of Fayoum, which is brought here for shipment to Cairo, &c. In its neighbourhood, some quarries of oriental alabaster have lately been discovered, which, it is said, will be worked to considerable profit.

Benisouef is well supplied with provisions of all kinds, but the prices are much the same as in the Egyptian metropolis. It contains a large cotton manufactory, which, being in full activity, gives employment to several hundreds of poor people, and, consequently, fewer beggars are to be met with here than in the streets of most large Egyptian cities. There is also a barrack for a cavalry regiment, whose vicinity is necessary to overawe the inhabitants

of the Fayoum, who are sometimes refractory in the matters of taxes and conscription.

The horses are small but sturdy animals, possessing no claims whatever to beauty. Out of three hundred that came under my notice, not one had the least appearance of having either Arab or Numidian blood in his veins. They were all tethered and picketted (as well those in the stable as in the barrack square), and, though in fair working condition, seemed, excepting as regards food, to be neglected in every respect.

Shouldering our guns, and preceded by a guide, we set off early in the day to visit the Pyramid of Illaoum. It is distant about twelve miles from Benisouef to the north north-west, and situated at the extreme point of a low ramification of the Lybian chain, that, stretching into the plain, forms one side of the narrow pass, communicating with the valley of Fayoum.

The road is very circuitous, passing, in its way, through the villages of Belifieh, Bahá, El Hager, and Illaoum.

The country was but very partially cultivated, in consequence of the river having failed to rise to the necessary height the preceding summer. Around Benisouef, indeed, it was lying waste for miles; but a narrow belt of cultivated land extended along the banks of the Bahr Yousef and Bathen Canal, thus connecting the valley of the Nile with that of the Fayoum.

Between El Hager and Illaoum, a range of low sand hills, covered with pebbles, spreads into the plain, interrupting all cultivation for some miles. On approaching the last-named village, the ground again falls to the canals, and the soil is very rich, but was left in a barren state from the want of the means of irrigating it.

A causeway has been made across the flat ground that extends from the village of Illaoum to the foot of the hill on which the pyramid stands—a distance of nearly three miles—and it offers the only road for entering the valley of Fayoum, during the period of the inundation.

There are two bridges in the causeway — one near Illaoum, under which passes, or more correctly, formerly passed, the Bathen Canal—the other—near its western extremity —by which the Bahr Yousef is traversed. They are both of recent construction, but, of course, have merely taken the places of others, as the water must always have had an outlet to the north.

I am of opinion that the extensive flat that the causeway crosses is the bed of Lake Bathen, the existence of which has been denied. The small canal that is conducted from the Nile near Benisouef to this spot certainly goes by that name in the country, and this is the ground it lays under water during high Nile; and which, not being itself cultivated, serves as a reservoir for irrigating other tracts of land, and, certainly, therefore, *sometimes* deserves the name of *lake*. When we passed over it, the surface was baked as hard as pottery, and, being very rough in addition, was by no means pleasant to walk upon.

The Pyramid is a shapeless pile of sun-burnt bricks, about two hundred and fifty feet high. Its base is now concealed by the mass of ruins, or rather rubbish, that fell from its summit, on taking away the stone buttresses by which it was originally held together, some remains of which are yet visible.

It appeared to me that the interior of this pyramid is carved out of the natural rock for about one quarter of its height, (that being the level of the points of the tumuli on the circumjacent hills) and was coated afterwards with brick; otherwise, how this mass of mud could hold together so long it is difficult to conceive. It was impossible, however, to set the question at rest without immense labour, on account of the vast accumulation of rubbish round the base, and the same cause prevented my succeeding in finding the entrance.

The bricks are laid in horizontal courses, without any kind of cement, and crumble to pieces with the least pressure. They measure twenty inches in length, half that

number in breadth, and three and one-third (one sixth) in thickness.

From the summit of the Pyramid (which can be gained without much difficulty), a fine view is obtained of the fertile province of Fayoum, stretching to the northward and westward, far into the great Lybian desert.

A narrow gorge at its eastern extremity connects the Fayoum with the valley of the Nile; but, on every other side, it is bounded by arid sandy mountains. The bottom of this singular basin is nearly flat, and in great part covered with plantations of olive, fig, and other fruit trees; these present a remarkable contrast to the other cultivated plains of Egypt, on which, save the melancholy palms that shelter the villages scattered over them, there is not a tree to break the wavy horizon of corn and cotton.

The surface of the Fayoum is not, however, less richly carpeted from being thus screened and overshadowed. Vines, rose bushes, and indigo, grow luxuriantly beneath the shade of the olive groves; whilst flax, cotton, and

the sugar-cane, thrive well in the more open grounds; for but the last-named, the climate of Upper Egypt is better suited. The rose water of Fayoum is much and deservedly esteemed.

This province owes its great productiveness—its existence perhaps—to the Birket Keroun, or Lake Mæris, which, receiving the flood of the Nile, by means of a branch canal from the Bahr Yousef, retains a sufficient quantity of water to irrigate the circumjacent country for a considerable time after the inundation of the river has subsided.

A second pyramid stands (where the valley of Fayoum may be said to commence) about five miles to the westward of that of Illaoum. The gorge, which serves as the link, connecting the cultivation of the Fayoum with that of the valley of the Nile, is about four miles wide.

The area of the Fayoum, according to the best modern geographers, is but six hundred square miles, of which Lake Mæris covers about one hundred and eighty. According to Herodotus, the lake alone was in his time

three thousand six hundred stadia (nearly four hundred and fifty miles) in circumference, and two hundred cubits deep!

This immense lake he states to have been entirely a work of human labour, and he naturally became very curious to learn what had been done with the earth that had been excavated in its formation, which he at length satisfied himself had been thrown into the Nile.

Let not those, therefore, who — pinning their faith to the Greek geographer — believe that the Delta is a gift of the Nile, wonder what country furnished the soil to fill up the huge gulph. Herodotus's Lake Mæris solves the mystery, for it alone would have supplied sufficient earth to cover the whole Delta with a much thicker layer than is to be found on any part of it.

It was late when we returned to our boat and got under weigh from Benisouef. Fatigued with our long day's excursion, we soon retired to bed and fell asleep. Of this circumstance our lazy, or rather roguish, Reis and crew took advantage, by taking in the

sails ere we had proceeded a dozen miles, and making the cange fast to the shore for the night. This is a trick these people often practise ; for, being hired by the month or week, they are by no means anxious to get back to port to be paid off, and, consequently, use every means to delay and eke out the voyage.

Next morning we had only reached Abou-nour—the first picturesque spot that is met with in ascending the Nile. The hills on the eastern side of the river here come close down to its bank, and a detached conical knoll with some ruined buildings upon it juts into the stream. Here also the range of hills becomes a little more varied in its form, its summit being broken and irregular, though no difference has yet taken place in its composition ; the calcareous formation, as about Cairo, still continuing.

Now and then a patch of brilliant green vegetation offers a fine contrast to the bleached cliffs that rise perpendicularly behind it. The immediate banks of the river are mostly

low and flat, (invariably so on the western side) and not at all higher than in the passage of the river through the Delta, but the ground beyond rises considerably.

We landed for a couple of hours at Malatieh, where the Lybian chain again approaches pretty close to the Nile. The country between the desert and the river was but little cultivated, and has no appearance (as imagined by Colonel Leake) of being lower (and consequently more subject to inundation) than any other part of the valley.

Next morning, we reached Samalout, and stopped there a short time to allow the sailors to purchase bread—there being a kind of fair, or market. They were very loath to leave the amusements of the place; and the Reis, finding they had no attractions for us, was very urgent that we should visit some catacombs excavated in the rocky bank of the river, immediately opposite Samalout.

The wind, however, continuing fair, we determined to profit by it, and get as far up the river as possible, without stopping to see

sights to which we could devote more time on our return. We, therefore, passed the town of Minieh that afternoon, without landing. It has rather a picturesque appearance from the river; the bank being overhung with gardens and date groves, through which peep some decent-looking white-washed houses.

Towards nightfall, we reached Benihas-sen. Providing ourselves with lanterns and torches, we proceeded to visit the catacombs, or temples, excavated in the face of a steep rock, that here falls rather abruptly to the river. We found the principal tomb occupied as a dwelling place by a French artist and a young Greek, who, after presenting us with some coffee, kindly volunteered to act as Ciceroni.

The entrance to each of the two principal tombs is by a kind of portico, or vestibule, the roof of which, in the first tomb, is supported in front by two octagonal pillars, whilst that of the chamber itself rests upon four polygonal columns standing on low circular bases.

In a recess at the extremity of the excavation are three mutilated figures, in a sitting position. The walls are covered with paintings, representing agricultural pursuits of all sorts—figures wrestling—a hunt of some kind of wild beasts—meant, possibly, for antelopes.

In the interior of the second tomb two polygonal columns only are standing; the shafts of the others, that supported the roof, have been removed. The roof is carved so as to form three arches, or aisles, as it were. The paintings on the walls represent persons engaged in domestic occupations of various kinds—bull-fighting, birds and beasts of all sorts, amongst others, a goose with four legs and two heads.

Beyond these two principal tombs there is a long suite of chambers, communicating with each other throughout, but every one having, also, a separate entrance from the exterior.

All these tombs, including their porticoes, pillars, &c. are cut out of the rock, which is

limestone, but in a state of decomposition towards the surface, and containing numerous fossils.

Judging from the Doric look of the columns, the arched roofs, the freshness of some parts of the paintings on the walls, and the subjects represented, (one of which described all the different operations of glass-blowing,) I am not inclined to ascribe to these tombs any very great antiquity. * There were no carved,

* It was only on my return from the cataracts, that I had an opportunity of reading the letters of the late Monsieur Champollion on Egypt; and, from his description of the beauty and truth of the paintings in the Hypogées of Benihassen, I was led to imagine that I had undervalued them in my torch-light visit in ascending the river, and determined, therefore, to see them again by daylight—but, in good truth, I cannot say it placed them higher in my estimation. The only thing to be admired about them is the architecture, and that only from its approach to the Grecian Doric; although the learned Frenchman insists on its being Egyptian workmanship of the ninth century before Christ. That the paintings on the walls *may be* of that great antiquity I will not dispute, as they are in the usual anti-perspective style of all the others I met with in Egypt, and as he has, moreover, declared, that he *read so* on the walls themselves. The exclusion of air (from the tombs having been choked up with sand,) may possibly have preserved the colours of the paintings in their present fresh state, but to believe that the pillars of the porticoes—cut out of the *face* of a limestone rock, constantly exposed to the action of the sun, wind, and damp—should also remain in good preservation (if, as Monsieur Champollion maintained, they are of the same date),

or, if they may be so called, bas-relief hieroglyphics about any part of them, nor fragments, either of marble or granite; except, indeed, some rough blocks of a very coarse description of the former, quarried from the mountain itself in which the tombs are excavated.

We had an alarm during the night, occasioned by the attempt of a party of Arabs to plunder a boat lying alongside our's; but, before we could bring our guns to bear, the party had made off, and reached the shelter of a grove of date trees. Such, at least, was the report of our Maltese servant, who, we strongly suspected, had dreamt what he related, as no one but himself had either heard or seen anybody.

The following morning was perfectly calm, and we had some difficulty in reaching Eramoun by the evening. We proceeded imme-

is rather too great a demand on one's credulity; and I am, therefore, still disposed to give the Greeks the credit of being the original inventors of the Doric order of architecture: the more so as the columns in the tombs at Benihassen are not sculptured with figures or hieroglyphics of any sort.

diately to visit the Viceroy's sugar-refinery at that place, which was originally under the direction of an Englishman, whose death having been very sudden (he was carried off by apoplexy) was ascribed by Mohammed Ali's enemies to poison. This report did not, however, deter another European from taking the management of the establishment, and it is carried on with considerable activity.

The sugar is neither so good nor so cheap as it might be; in the first place, from the faulty system adopted by the Pasha in collecting the molasses, and, secondly, from the prejudices of the consumers, who require that it should be clarified in strict accordance with the precepts of the Koran.

Instead of the canes being brought to the refinery, the saccharine matter is expressed from the cane by the growers, and the Viceroy's proportion brought in a liquid state to Ereramoun—an ingenious method of extracting molasses and taxes by the same operation. The liquor is then mixed with a portion of water; a small quantity of milk is added

to clarify it, and, after being boiled, is poured off into earthenware moulds, made in the usual sugar-loaf shape, the top being covered with clay, and a hole left in the small end for the molasses to exude.

This is the first process of clarification, and most of the sugar remains in this state, and is sold for seventy paras per pound (four pence three farthings).

The second process consists in breaking up and re-boiling this sugar with eggs, repeating the operation of claying. The sugar that has undergone this second clarification sells for the enormous price of eight piastres per pound (one shilling and nine pence.) I was informed that the number of eggs used in this second process is inconsiderable, rendering this vast difference in the cost of the two qualities the more extraordinary, for it is difficult to imagine that the mere repetition of the operation of boiling could occasion an advance of upwards of three hundred per cent in the price.

The operation of clarification would of

course be performed more readily and cheaper by the use of blood, but, as that is prohibited by the Mohammedan law, recourse is had to a more expensive substitute. Dear as this causes the viceregal sugar to be, yet it nevertheless always finds a sale, as no good Moslem will allow a drop of coffee to pass down his faithful throat, if sweetened with any other than orthodox sugar.

This is the only sugar-refinery in Egypt, and the quantity made amounts annually, I was informed, to forty thousand quintals (one hundred pounds French, each). The sugar that had undergone the second process of clarification appeared to be tolerably well crystallized, but the cane of Egypt does not contain much saccharine matter.

The quantity of rum distilled at Ereramoun amounts to from two to three thousand quintals per annum. It is placed in large reservoirs lined with lead, in which it remains a year, when it is again submitted to the process of distillation, after which it is poured into hogsheads. It is of a very fiery nature

(twenty-three degrees), and is coloured in the usual way with burnt sugar.

The earthen sugar moulds are made on the spot, and there is also a cooperage attached to the establishment.

The total number of persons employed is about two hundred. The price of labour varies from twenty-five to eighty paras a day. Some of the principal workmen are paid as high as five piastres.

A short distance above Ereramoun, (or El Radamoun) and about a mile and a half from the bank of the river, is the town of Melawi, containing a population of some six thousand souls. The houses are poor, and the streets narrow and dirty; but it is rather a thriving place, from possessing manufactories of cotton and woollen cloths, rugs, &c.

The country in its vicinity is planted almost exclusively with sugar-canes. The soil is of a very light, sandy nature, and elevated rather more than ordinary above the level of the river.

The hills, bounding the valley of the Nile

to the eastward, stretch down opposite Eramoun to the very bank of the stream, confining the cultivation along the right bank to a very narrow strip of land.

At the distance of a few miles from that place, in ascending the stream, is the principal mouth, by which the Bahr Yousef communicates with the river. There is a stone bridge across it, and sluice-gates to retain the water in the canal, after the inundation has subsided.

CHAPTER XIII.

Tedious rate of Progressing—Mountains of Abou Ifoddeh—Slumbering Crocodiles—Town of Manfalout—Description of the City of Siout—The Governor's Palace—The Slave Market—Price of Provisions—Canals of Souhadj and Yousef serve as barriers against the Sandy Desert—Siroc Wind—Ruins at Gau el Kebeer—Tribe of Bedouins—Poverty of Girgeh—Errors as to Distance—Remarkable Change in the Inhabitants—Mode of levying Taxes—Excuses of Tenants—Potteries at Kheneh—Flourishing State of the Town—Kindness of Sheik Hassan—Voyage continued—Edfou—Hagar, or Gibel Silsilis—Remains of Temples—Extensive Quarries—Fabulous Chain—Precipitous Cliffs—Scenery along the Nile—Arrival at Assouan.

THE day after leaving Ereramoun, the wind altogether failed us, and we proceeded, by means of tracking, at the tedious rate of a mile and a half an hour; for, even with a strong crew, that is the maximum of velocity that can be obtained (excepting in a very light boat) against wind and current. Moreover, the numerous islands and sand-banks

render the business of tracking very laborious, the men having frequently to wade up to their waists in water, when crossing from the bank of the river to these various impediments.

The heat was excessive: the little breeze that was stirring we were effectually screened from by the mountains, which, along this part of the Nile, approach close to its eastern bank. That called Abou Ifoddeh falls perpendicularly to the very stream for several miles; its face is pierced here and there with catacombs and caverns, now tenanted only by hawks and other birds of prey; whilst, on the rocky ledges at its base, the drowsy crocodile basks in the mid-day sun.

We here saw this enormous reptile for the first time. In searching for a wounded wild goose, we approached the cliff in our cange, and disturbed the slumbers of a family of them; otherwise, we should probably have passed, unconscious of their vicinity, for neither the report of our guns nor the noise of the boatmen's oars appeared to have alarmed

them. They would not allow us, however, to come very near; but plunged, or I should rather say slid, off the rocks into the river, and we saw no more of them.

In the evening, we reached Manfalout; a large but miserable town, situated on a high mound on the left bank of the river, where there is a considerable manufacture of pottery carried on, and also several slips for building vessels.

The calm continuing on the following day, the tedious operation of tracking was resumed. Late at night, we reached Siout.

This city is the capital of the Said, and is supposed to stand on the site of the ancient Lycopolis; but it contains no vestiges of antiquity, excepting a few small granite pillars, used now as sills to the city gates. *

Siout is pleasantly situated on a heap of rubbish, elevated some thirty or forty feet

* For the ancient amphitheatre, spoken of by Belzoni, I searched every where in vain. I was happy to learn afterwards, that I am not the only person who has been equally unsuccessful in the search; perhaps it requires the lively imagination of an Italian to discover it. I have found that the case in many instances elsewhere.

above the circumjacent plain. It is distant about a mile from the river, and something more than a quarter that distance from a rocky tongue that projects from the Lybian chain into the valley of the Nile, and is perforated in all directions with catacombs.

On the eastern side of the Nile, opposite Siout, the mountains recede considerably, forming a kind of basin, which is one of the most fertile tracts of land in Egypt. The crops of corn, with which it was covered, were by far the finest I had seen any where.

In the immediate vicinity of the town are numerous walled gardens and groves of orange, pomegranate, and other fruit trees, giving Siout a refreshing look, and its air an agreeable perfume.

The houses are all built of sunburnt bricks. Some of the Mosques are handsome, but the only really good edifice the place contains is the palace of the governor, built by the late Defterdar Bey, (son-in-law of Mohammed Ali), whose property was confiscated at his death, it having — so the Viceroy declared — been

amassed by iniquitous means, and wrung from the peasantry of the Said whilst under his government. It was consequently transferred to the public treasury.*

The bazaars are good, and travellers may here complete their provisions on reasonable terms. It is a great market for slaves, who are mostly brought from Darfour. Their sleek oily persons, ugly laughing faces, and white teeth, would break the hearts of our anti-slavery advocates.

The price of “*une jolie petite negresse*,” (as Rifaud calls them), is about seven thousand piastres—that is to say, the demand was nine thousand, but I conclude, had I been disposed to make the purchase, the first-named sum would have effected it.

The following were the prices we paid for

* That this same Defterdar Bey was really a great scoundrel was clearly proved by his behaviour to poor Belzoni; and, had the Viceroy, whilst his son-in-law was yet living, made him disgorge his ill-gotten wealth, and hit upon some plan of restoring it to the unfortunate beings from whom it had been wrung, he would have performed a praiseworthy action — as it is, he has only exposed himself to the sarcastic observation of having added the right of plundering his subjects to his long list of *monopolies*.

different articles at Siout: a milch goat with two kids, thirteen and a-half piastres, (three shillings;) twelve fowls, (considered dear) at the rate of six for four piastres and a-half; forty eggs, one piastre; butter, seventy paras a pound.

The population of Siout may amount to about twelve thousand souls, a very large proportion of whom—as appears from the paintings over their doors commemorative of the event—have made the soul-saving pilgrimage to the holy city. The inhabitants are mostly employed in agriculture and cotton-spinning, but the city contains manufactories of wax candles and pottery.

Between the town and the mountain at its back passes the Moyé Souhadj, or Canal of Souhadj. Across this there is a bridge of formidable dimensions, though the bed of the canal can be traced only by a succession of pools of stagnant water: the greater part being at this season of the year under cultivation.

It is generally supposed that this great canal and its continuation—the Bahr Yousef

—running parallel to the Nile for three hundred miles—have been the means of checking the encroachment of the desert. Inasmuch as that they favour the irrigation, and consequently the cultivation of land, lying far beyond the distance to which water could by any other means be conducted from the Nile after its periodical inundation has subsided, they certainly do present a barrier to the sandy desert: the sand drifted annually from the westward upon the plain being ploughed in and mixed with the deposit of mud left on its surface by means of the irrigating ducts: but to suppose that these canals can stop the encroachment of the sands in any other way is quite erroneous.

Even had these canals been defended from the drift-sand by an embankment, I doubt whether they would have been themselves preserved from ultimate destruction: but that they were not so protected is quite evident, as all traces of the canals have in many places disappeared, which would not have been the case, had they been sheltered by a high bank on one side.

The cultivated land extends for a considerable distance to the westward, near those parts of the old bed of the canal of Moyé Souhadj, which have not been entirely filled up: the pools left by the inundation affording the means of irrigating the land during great part of the winter.

The mountain behind Siout rises to the height of three or four hundred feet, and is perforated with catacombs, ranged in tiers or terraces, one above another to the very summit. The rock is of the same calcareous nature as that of Lower Egypt. Many of the tombs are very spacious, sculptured with hieroglyphics, and contain mummy pits. The roofs of most of them are carved in arches, and have been plastered over and painted, but the colours are nearly obliterated.

As a military post, Siout is of some importance, as by its position it closes the space between the Lybian chain and the Nile, and bars the passage along the left bank of the river. A large garrison is always maintained there, which comprises a park of artillery ; but,

excepting a miserable mud battery in front of the governor's palace, the place is defended only by the usual *enceinte* of sunburnt brick walls.

A most disagreeable Siroc wind detained us a whole day at Siout, much against our inclination, but, having moderated towards sunset, so as to admit of our cange being towed, we again started.

The following morning the wind changed to the north ; and, in the course of the afternoon, we arrived at Gau el Kebeer, where we landed to look at the foundation walls (all that remain) of an ancient temple. It must have been of considerable size. The blocks of which it was built are immense, of a fine compact limestone nearly approaching to marble, and covered with figures and hieroglyphics sculptured "in relievo," and executed with more regard to perspective and proportion than has generally fallen to the lot of the defunct Egyptian heroes to have their deeds commemorated in.

The village is inhabited by a tribe of tamed

Bedouins, who brought us Roman coins and Egyptian monsters to purchase. Their habitations have at a distance an appearance of comfort and cleanliness not possessed by most Arab dwellings, being raised somewhat above the muddy plain, and having the upper story whitewashed. The delusion vanishes on a close inspection:—the family lives as usual on the ground-floor, whilst the upper and best-looking part of the edifice is tenanted by countless pigeons—placing the human inhabitants between two strata of filth.

Early in the morning, after leaving Gau, we arrived at Akhmim, but proceeded on without landing, wishing to take every advantage of a favourable wind. In the afternoon we reached Girgeh, where we unfortunately were obliged to remain some hours to undergo repairs, having carried away our foreyard.

There is nothing remarkable about the town, excepting a greater degree of poverty and degradation than usual. There are, nevertheless, some tolerably good bazaars, and it is a place well suited for taking in a

supply of provisions, as they are cheap and plentiful.

We hired donkeys to carry us to see the ruins of a temple in the neighbourhood (Diospolis Parva), and set off under the impression that the distance to it did not much exceed two Arab miles—one of which may generally be calculated at five English.

After riding for two hours, as fast as our little animals could be urged (and they travel without difficulty at the rate of five or six miles an hour), we thought it time to inquire how much further we had to go. Finding we were only half way, and the sun being nearly down, we turned back without satisfying our curiosity.

It is almost impossible to judge of distance from the information of the natives. In the present instance, some, who had asked an exorbitant sum for the hire of their beasts, declared to us that the distance was four miles. They certainly were nearer the mark than those whose animals we were persuaded to take, who demanded only one half what

the others did; calculating, no doubt, that we should turn back before we got half way to the ruins, it being so late when we set out.

A remarkable change is perceptible, some time before reaching Siout, both in the manners and persons of the inhabitants. Their complexions become gradually darker, their features less pleasing, and their garments more scanty. Their moral qualities fall off in a like ratio: they are more debased in every respect than the inhabitants of Lower Egypt, and compulsion alone induces them to work. On arriving at Girgeh, their complexions are of a hue nearly approaching to black—their hair is frizzled—and their badly formed limbs are but half covered. The women are far less scrupulous about showing their faces, with considerably more reason to keep them concealed.

We left Girgeh late at night, having waited until the moon rose, to enable us to steer clear of numerous islands and sand-banks that interrupt the course of the stream, and render the navigation of this part of the river

very intricate. As it was, we ran aground repeatedly.

We saw a great many crocodiles the following morning, and succeeded in knocking one over with a ball, but he righted himself quickly, and slid into the water, as if nothing had happened.

We landed at noon, and walked across an isthmus formed by the winding of the river to Raishieh. The country was parched and uncultivated, owing to the "bad Nile" of the preceding year.

Whilst waiting at Raishieh for our boat to come up, we had an opportunity of witnessing the manner in which the government taxes are levied and paid. A party of Janizaries is sent from Cairo, to collect the Miri* in each district, in whose presence the Arab chief of every village holds a court (here it was in the open air), to which all the inhabitants are summoned, and to whom the Sheik states what each has to pay, according to the extent of ground he has had under cultiva-

* Territorial impost.

tion. Of course, there were many recusants ; all, indeed, to a man, declared they had not so much land under cultivation as they were taxed to pay for.

The usual excuses of tenants, for non-payment of their rent, were, as a matter of course, urged — a bad year — unfavourable sales — scanty crops, &c. &c. ; and, I fancy, were paid as little attention to as such excuses are in most other countries.

The Miri amounts to seventy piastres per feydan per annum (about fifteen shillings and ninepence an acre), is distinct from the tithe payable in kind, and should more properly be considered as the *hire* of the land, which belongs to the Viceroy. He, in fact, lets it out to his subjects, only prescribing to them what they are to grow upon it.

The wind favoured us all night, but we got aground several times, and thanked our stars that the bottom of the Nile is of a very giving nature. Before mid-day we reached the port of Kheneh, on the right bank of the river, and, landing immediately, proceeded to the town, (situated about a mile inland) to deliver

our letters of introduction to Sheik Hassan, the British consular agent. He is a fine old man, received us most hospitably, and conducted us round the bazaars and into the principal pottery manufactories, for which Kheneh is celebrated.

The clay that is made use of is a very ductile kind, that becomes extremely porous after being baked; and the bardarques, or vases, made here, are used for cooling water all over Egypt. The workmen are very expert, and have good classical taste in selecting models.

The price of the water-jars is at Siout a mere trifle, at Kheneh (a para each, or fifteen a penny, for jars holding a quart); but, being very fragile articles, it increases at an astonishing rate in descending the river. There is another description of bardarque made here of a clay brought from Assouan, which is coloured with red ochre. The jars made of this clay take a high polish, are stronger than the others, and not porous.

Pipe-bowls are also made of this clay, and such is the estimation in which they are

held, that the epicurean Arab deems a Kheneh pipe-bowl as essential to the flavour of his *latakieh*, as the *bon vivant*, elsewhere, looks upon a green glass as the only fit channel of communication between his lips and a bottle of Johannisberg.

There is a large cotton factory at Kheneh, and the place has, on the whole, a thriving appearance; but it does not by any means possess the flourishing trade I was led to expect, from its being the port on the Nile, serving as the *entrepôt* for the trade carried on with India and Arabia, by way of Kosseir. It is also the point where the Hadji, bound to Mekka, usually leave the Nile, and is consequently enriched by the passage of many wealthy persons. This year (1834) no less than three thousand had proceeded by this route on their devout pilgrimage.

The soil about Kheneh is light and sandy, but well irrigated, and produces good crops of corn and a considerable quantity of sugar-canes.

The worthy Sheik Hassan and his son accompanied us back to our boat, to which

he had previously insisted on sending sheep, dates, eggs, and butter, enough to load it, and for which we could offer no return but a whiff at our longest pipes, and a draught of sherbat from our largest glasses.—They swallowed a small glass of a certain liquid called *rosaglio*, after their coffee, out of pure regard to us: and, as we overcame their scruples of conscience by assuring them it was English sherbat, the sin be upon us.

We restrained our curiosity to visit Denderah—which is just opposite Kheneh—knowing that we should have a more favourable opportunity for examining it at leisure on our return. For the same reason, we resisted the temptation to land at Karnac and Luxor, for the breeze still continued favourable, and carried us rapidly by the imposing ruins of the “City of the Hundred Gates.”

A few miles beyond Luxor, the fickle element, however, failed us, and we were obliged to bring up for the night.

At dawn we proceeded, but at so slow a rate, that I spent the greater part of the day

in quail-shooting along the banks, being very well able to keep up with the boat.

An agreeable change takes place in the appearance of the mountains soon after leaving Kheneh—the flat table tops gradually give way to peaked summits and more picturesque outlines. On approaching Thebes, the Lybian chain rises to a great height and again closes upon the river.

We reached Edfou on the second morning after leaving Kheneh, and could not resist the temptation of taking a cursory view of the splendid ruined temple it contains. I shall, however, abstain in this place from offering an account of it, as I devoted more time to its inspection on our return from Assouan.

The valley of the Nile contracts very considerably, from Edfou upwards, the sand-stone hills coming down to within half a mile of the river on both banks.

The villages are mostly situated away from the edge of the stream, and are by no means so numerous as heretofore. The banks appear

to be thickly peopled with nomadic tribes, who pitch their tents or build their huts in the palm groves that border the stream.

The fields are well irrigated by means of water-wheels, &c. and produce Indian corn, millet, corn, and vegetables: the soil is very light and sandy.

The inhabitants, if they can be so called, have a strong mixture of Ethiopic blood in their veins, and go about nearly in a state of nudity. Indeed, a slight leathern belt, worn round the waist, with a small apron in front, barely of sufficient size to conceal the sex — is all the dress that most of them are encumbered with. They are badly made—without calf or muscle—and are generally deficient in teeth.

We reached Hagar Silsilis towards evening. The two chains of mountains that bound the valley of the Nile here approach close to each other, terminating in precipitous cliffs along the river: or, to speak, perhaps, more correctly, the Nile has here forced a passage through the sand-stone chain of hills that impeded it

in its course to the northward, as it had previously pierced through the granite chain at Assouan. Here, however, the softer nature of the stone has allowed it to work itself a deep and level bed, which the harder rocks at Assouan had not permitted it to accomplish. The stream, therefore, runs smoothly through the rocky gorge of Hagar Silsilis, but with increased velocity from the contraction in its width, which I found by measurement to be only nine hundred and sixty feet.

Hagar, or Gibel Silsilis (implying mountain of the chain), is about midway between Edfou and Assouan. It is a spot of great interest, not from the number of ruined tombs, temples, and catacombs, that are met with amongst the rocks—for they are in too dilapidated a state to be interesting—nay, too old (so says Monsieur Champollion) even for his lore to reach; but from being the place from whence the huge blocks that built the magnificent temples of Karnac, Luxor, Edfou, &c., were taken.

The quarries, to use the words of a former

traveller (Sir F. Henniker, I think), really do look as if the miners had left their work but the preceding evening, intending to return on the morrow to continue their labours. They are very extensive on both sides of the river, but particularly on the right bank, where some of them present a perpendicular scarp, ninety feet in height. From the principal quarry, a road, twenty feet wide, sloping gradually towards the Nile, has been pierced through the mountain; the cliffs on each side are cut perpendicularly down, a depth of fifty or sixty feet.

At the termination of this ramp is a quay, cut in the bank of the river, evidently for the purpose of shipping the enormous blocks brought from the quarries into vessels drawn up alongside. The bank of the river has, in another place, been carved in an inclined plane to the water's edge; but the quay presents a perpendicular wall of about twenty feet above the winter level of the stream.

The rocks which rise on each side the quay have been shaped into columns with rude pro-

jections overhanging the stream, giving them very much the appearance in shape of the iron cranes at present in use on our wharfs.

Channels and notches are cut in the adjoining rocks, which no doubt were intended for easing down, by ropes, &c., the blocks of stone from the quay into the vessels. These notches are pointed out, by those who favour the marvellous, as the rings to which the fabulous chain that barred the Nile was fastened.

The river, in its passage through the Gibel Silsilis — which is about a mile in length — is bordered by precipitous cliffs. The hills on the right bank rise, at no great distance from the stream, to the height of three hundred feet, but those on the western side do not attain above half that elevation.

The principal tombs, or temples, are on the left bank, and excavated in the cliffs bordering the river—one only has an interior chamber; but they almost all contain niches, adorned with some rude mummy-looking figures cut out of the rock, and in a very mutilated state.

Beyond Hagar Silsilis, the river widens so as to form quite a lake, and the hills gradually recede from it; but cultivation is here confined to the mere sloping banks of the stream — a width of about fifty yards — and, indeed, soon after ceases altogether for many miles on the western side, where a chain of low sand-hills extends to the southward and westward, as far as the eye can reach. About Koum Ombos (situated on the right bank) a few groves of palm-trees again appear, and the cultivation once more stretches inland, but to a very limited extent.

On approaching Assouan, the hills again close upon the river, and denote, by their appearance, that another change has taken place in their nature. They are no longer lofty or rugged as heretofore, but present low, rounded summits, bespeaking the presence of granite, whilst their dark purple hue offers a fine contrast to the brilliant green of the cultivated land at their feet. A sandy desert again presses on the left bank of the river ere reaching Assouan, terminating only where

the Gibel Howa rises along the edge of the stream—its summit crowned by a Mussulman tomb, and its side strewn with the ruins of the Coptic Monastery of St. George.

We anchored at Assouan, on the twentieth day after our departure from Old Cairo.

CHAPTER XIV.

Old Town of Assouan — Ruins of Two Temples — Roman Pier — Quarries of Rose-coloured Granite — Huge unfinished Obelisk — Column described by Belzoni—Island of Philoe—Arab Village — Sale of Slaves—Account of the Four ruined Temples at Philoe — Rocky Islands — The celebrated Cataracts — Feat of an Arab — Terrestrial Paradise—Persons and Manners of the Elephantine Nymphs—Ruined Convent of St. George—Sterile Tract of Country — Deserted Town of Koum Ombos — Peculiarity in the plan of the Temple—Arrival at Edfou.

THE old town of Assouan, (Syene) now a heap of ruins, occupies a narrow strip of slightly elevated ground, bordering the right bank of the Nile ; and is enclosed, on the land side, by a wall of sun-burnt bricks, resting on an old foundation, composed of small slabs of granite disposed in diagonal courses. Indeed, in some places, it is faced altogether in this manner with stone, giving it very much the look of the old churches and houses faced

with flint which are yet to be met with in many parts of England. It is flanked, at short intervals, with square towers.

Ever since a severe visitation of the plague some years back, the old town has been totally abandoned, and a new one has been built a little more to the north: it is a miserable place, containing some two thousand half-starved, and two-thirds naked, inhabitants.

The old town contains the ruins of two temples. The granite columns of one of them are standing embosomed in a grove of date-trees, not far from the bank of the river. They appear, from the plain style of architecture, to be of Grecian workmanship—I should say Doric—but the capitals are wanting.

The other temple is situated a little to the eastward, and is built of sand-stone: it is nearly buried in sand and ruins. The small portion of the walls that we were able to see bears no traces of sculptured figures; but the Egyptian capital of a column, that we found lying on the ground close by, was highly or-

namented and painted: the colours were extremely fresh and brilliant.

A stone pier, on which the natives say a palace formerly stood, projects into the river at the northern extremity of the wall of the old town. It now serves as a Nileometer, and has quite as much the appearance of having done duty in that capacity in former ages, as the granite rock in the island of Elephantine, to which the honour is usually ascribed.

When the water of the Nile reaches the level of the top of this pier, (which was only twenty-two feet above the level of the river in the month of March) it is considered a *very good* Nile, and ensures a plentiful harvest; and, when such is the case, the inundation reaches to within two feet of the level of the cultivated land in the island of Elephantine.

In the pier there is a staircase, which communicates with a long arched chamber, that is pierced with several apertures, resembling the embrasures of modern casemates. What this apartment could have been used for baffles conjecture, as from its floor being only

nine feet above the level of low Nile, it must be under water six months of the year. It appears to be of Roman workmanship.

The rose-coloured granite of Assouan — (Syene—which has caused the distinctive name of Syenites to be given to that description of rock) is the substratum of all the hills to the eastward of the town. The quarries have not been worked for ages, but the marks of the miners' tools are as sharp and fresh-looking as if they had been abandoned but yesterday.

A huge obelisk, but half cut out of the solid rock, remains to afford proof of the proficiency to which the Egyptians had attained as miners, as well as of the extraordinary knowledge they must have possessed in mechanics, without which, these enormous blocks could not have been moved from the spot where they were hewn from their native mountain.

This obelisk is partly buried in sand and granite chips, but a length of eighty feet is exposed, which measures eleven feet in width at the base: there are no hieroglyphics upon

it. I remarked that it was cut out of the rock at an angle of, perhaps, ten degrees with the horizon, which, I imagine, must have been done to facilitate, in some way, its removal from the quarry, there being no apparent cause for it in the direction of the strata.

The quarries are about a mile distant from the modern town, and a little beyond them lies the granite column, with a Latin inscription engraved on it, mentioned by Belzoni. It bears the names of Septimius Severus, and Caracalla; that of Geta having been obliterated; as is the case in all the inscriptions where his name was coupled with that of his unnatural brother. Who could have imagined such implacable enmity would have shown itself on a little granite pillar, under the tropic of Cancer?

The Island of Philoe is about five English miles from Assouan. By the river, which winds considerably, the distance is something more. The road, after threading the deserted streets of the old town of Assouan, traverses a vast plain, strewn with the mouldering walls of

countless tombs and mausolea ; all nearly in the same ruinous state, as are now the dwellings of their occupants whilst on earth.

Leaving this scene of devastation, the road enters the hilly country bordering the right bank of the Nile, advancing by a narrow plain, or rather pass, bounded, within pistol-shot on both sides, by rugged ridges of granite and bay-salt.

The track—for it is little else—is level and good, being over a bed of hard quartzose sand. The country is wild and desolate, causing one to receive a most favourable first impression of the Island of Philoe, which, studded with temples, and shadowed by groves of doum and palm trees, bursts agreeably upon the sight, on arriving at a cragged peak in which the right hand ridge terminates, when, turning abruptly to the west, the road reaches the Nile.

On the bank of the river, immediately opposite the Island of Philoe, is a wretched Arab village—a grand *depôt*, nevertheless, for slaves. We found a large assortment just arrived from Kordofan. They were offered to

us great bargains ; only six hundred piastres being asked for boys from twelve to fifteen years of age. They were all quite black, with frizzly hair and Hottentot features. A poll-tax, which is levied here, and a second at some other place, ere reaching Cairo, occasioned the poor creatures to be disposed of at so cheap a rate.

The Island of Philoe is about four hundred and fifty yards in length, and two hundred wide ; and is completely covered with ruins.

Of the four temples (all, I believe, dedicated to the goddess Isis) which it contains, the principal one occupies the central part of the island, standing rather on its western side. It is approached through two Propylæa, composed, like those of all the great temples of Egypt, of two truncated pyramids, connected to rather more than half their height, by a wall, in which is the gateway. They are in good preservation, and covered with colossal figures, of rude execution, representing the divine Isis, and her usual unsightly attendants.

A little beyond the second propylæon is the portico of the temple, consisting of two rows of handsome columns, with capitals carved to represent the leaves of the lotus, palm, and doum, and gaudily painted.

The colours on the capitals of the interior row of columns are very fresh, and produce a rich and brilliant effect; for, though the taste of using paint on the chaste columns of the Grecian school is very questionable, (and I believe, many persons are prepared to maintain that the Greeks did use paint,) yet, in the mixed and irregular style of the Egyptians, the columns—having no claim to admiration on the score of classic uniformity, or beauty of proportions—are rather set off by the gaudy colouring bestowed upon them.

The cella of the temple is in a tolerable state of preservation; but the smoke of the lamps of various travellers, who have from time to time taken up their abode there, has completely tarnished the paintings on the walls.

All the parts of this temple are built of a very fine quality of sand-stone; but some

blocks of the native granite of the island, that protruded above the level of the foundation of the building, have been blocked into shape, so as to line with and form part of the walls. One immense slab is remarkably conspicuous in the foundation of the front wall of the second propylæon, being covered with minute hieroglyphics.

On the whole, this is, perhaps, one of the most perfect, (as regards its state of preservation) as well as the most elaborately finished, of all the temples that are now to be met with in Egypt. The general effect of it is spoilt, however, by its different lines not being at right angles with each other—a fault occasioned by the limited space the island afforded for so large an edifice.

In advance of the first propylæon, two colonnades, two hundred and fifty feet in length, but not parallel to each other—extend to the southern extremity of the island, terminating at a wall, raised sixty feet above the bed of the river. From the western colonnade a staircase descends to the stream, and, at its extremity,

is a small obelisk of sand-stone. Its fellow on the eastern side has either been carried away, or lies buried in the ruins. At this spot, also, are the remains of a small temple, of which only a few columns, with Isis-headed cow-eared capitals, are now standing.

About thirty yards to the eastward of the great temple is another small edifice (usually called Pharaoh's Bed.) It is of a rectangular form, surrounded by an open colonnade ; and, excepting one tablet in the interior, is not sculptured either with figures or hieroglyphics. From this circumstance, as well as the difference in its construction from all other Egyptian edifices, it may be presumed, (if a temple at all,) that it was built at a much later date than the others.

The site of the fourth and last temple is indicated only by the ruins of a prpylæon facing the river, but it may have been merely the gateway, by which the island itself was entered, and which appears to have been enclosed on all sides by a high and massive wall of cut stone, built doubtless to defend the

place from other enemies besides the river. This wall served also to retain the made ground, for the small extent of rocky foundation afforded by the island itself rendered some additional means necessary to enable it to bear the unusual weight of holiness imposed on it.

Amongst the ruins, fragments of statues, sphinxes, &c. are here and there perceptible; but the surface of this stratum of the handiworks of the ancients is covered by so thick a layer of the filth of the moderns, that it is only by great labour anything can be excavated. From the same cause, the utmost difficulty is experienced in tracing the foundations of the various temples, or other buildings, every spot on the island where a mud-hut would stand having been formerly built on; but the island is now altogether uninhabited.

From the summit of the first propylæon of the great temple, a fine bird's-eye view is obtained of the numerous rocky islands that here begin to interrupt the tranquil flow of

the Nile ; and a constant succession of which, continuing for several miles to impede its course, causes those rapids that have grandiloquently been called cataracts.

Re-crossing the river, and our donkeys' backs, we proceeded down the stream, keeping close along its rocky margin, until we reached these famous falls. The last and principal one is about three miles and a half below Philoe, and two above Assouan.

My first impression on seeing it was that, the swimming down would produce a very agreeable sensation. Having made this remark to my companion, we agreed to do so the following day, encouraged to the undertaking by seeing an Arab descend the fall with the greatest apparent ease. He, however, begged us to consider his exploit as one attended with great risk ; and (having been performed expressly for our gratification) calling for munificent backschis. This we fully admitted, telling him that on the morrow he should have his reward, by seeing us swim down the cataracts.

He thereupon informed us that he had floated down lashed to a log—having merely gone through the motions of swimming to deceive us—and changing his ground, offered, for a *consideration*, to let us have the use of his raft, straps, &c. and even to do pilot for us ; but our valour had evaporated, for though I make no doubt we should have escaped drowning, yet a perfect knowledge of the channels between the rocks must be necessary, to avoid being carried against them to the detriment of one's legs and arms.

A Canadian in his canoe would not make the least difficulty, however, in going up and down the *cataracts*, for their fall in no part exceeds four feet in a hundred yards.

The islands that extend from Philoe to Assouan — designated by Malte Brun the “ tropical gardens ” — consist, for the most part, of banks of deep sand and barren rocks, altogether unsusceptible of cultivation. The last and principal one of the groupe—that of Elephantine — forms an exception. This terrestrial paradise (for such it has been described)

is a tract of light sandy soil, about three hundred yards wide, and half a mile long, terminating at its southern extremity in a mound of rubbish resting on a granite foundation.

This “tropical garden” produces corn, barley, onions, and garlic; a few pumpkins, cucumbers, lupines, and other vegetables. It is well irrigated by means of water-wheels, and fringed with a narrow belt of date-trees, which stifle the growth of some dwarf sycamores and lime-trees.

Two wretched mud-built villages contain the inhabitants of this “flowery island,” but the “sable nymphs,” whose “handsome features,” “animated countenances,” and “graceful forms,” made such an impression on Sir F. Henniker and Dr. Richardson, and with whose courtesy and “friendly salaam” Colonel Light was equally enchanted, have been carried off “at one fell swoop!”

The whole of this graceful, symmetrical, courteous, race is extinct; for, at the present day, the Elephantine nymphs are copper-coloured, have broad flat noses, projecting lips,

woolly hair (growing luxuriantly under the influence of castor oil), large knock-knees, and spindle shanks ! They are, in fact, a race of beings with whom it would be revolting to every faculty to come in contact.

An equally remarkable change has been effected in the manners of these naiads ; for, instead of being greeted with the retiring modesty, for which the ex-race gained so much praise, we were received by a troop of ugly, squalid girls, screaming “ backschis ” in full chorus. Totally regardless of their state of nudity, they did not leave us an instant, from the time of our landing to that of our quitting the island.

Elephantine contains now but little to gratify the antiquary. Of the temple of Knuphis no part is at present standing but the gateway.

On the eastern side of the island, nearly facing Assouan, is a wall built of large blocks of sand-stone, which rests on an immense block of granite, presenting a perpendicular scarp to the stream. On the face of this rock an

inscription is carved, declaring it (according to the learned in hieroglyphics) to be a Nile-meter. The stones of which the superposed wall is built have evidently served in the construction of some other edifice, as many of the geese, hawks, and other animals, are standing on their heads.

The granite quarries on the island are insignificant, compared with those of Assouan.

The ruined convent of St. George, erected on the side of the Gibel Howa, is remarkable only for the great extent of its excavations; the entire superstructure being a heap of ruins. Its numerous subterranean chambers extend a considerable way into the mountain. They are supported by immense square pillars, and communicate with each other by arched passages — the whole cut out of the solid rock. The sides of the apartments have been sculptured with figures, but afterwards plastered over, so as to render it a difficult matter to make out the subjects represented, or even the period at which the work was executed.

From the tomb of a Sheik, perched on the

summit of the mountain, a fine bird's-eye view is obtained, but it does not embrace either the cataracts or the Island of Philoe.

There is but little ground susceptible of cultivation about Assouan. A narrow strip of light sandy soil, producing corn and studded with date trees, skirts the right bank of the river for a few miles below the town, but the left bank of the stream is totally destitute and incapable of cultivation. Above Assouan all is arid, rocky, and unproductive, and it is this surrounding sterility that has probably given the Island of Elephantine its fertile celebrity.

Under such circumstances, it is not surprising that provisions of all kinds are dearer at Assouan than elsewhere. Sheep, fowls, eggs, and vegetables, are, nevertheless, to be procured without difficulty.

We set off on our return for Cairo on the morning of the third day after our arrival, and, in the afternoon, reached Koum Ombos, a distance of twenty-two miles. This town, once the powerful rival and deadly foe of

Dendarah, is now quite deserted. Some massive buildings that stand close upon the edge of the river, and have an imposing effect in sailing down the stream, attest the wealth and importance of the ancient Ombi, and vast heaps of ruined huts show that even in later days Koum Ombos has been a place of some size, if not importance. But there is not now a solitary habitation within several miles of the place.

On the bank of the river—washed, indeed, partly by the stream—some broken pillars and Iris-headed capitals mark the spot where once stood one of the celebrated temples of Ombi. Excepting these fragments, all else belonging to the temple of Isis has been swept away by the unopposed annual encroachment of the river. Another immense structure, standing back about fifty yards from the crumbling bank, will probably, ere long, share the same fate. As yet, however, it is tolerably perfect, and is so peculiar in its construction as to have caused many travellers to entertain very erroneous notions respecting it.

The portico of this building faces the west, and consists of fifteen columns disposed in three rows, thereby forming four avenues or approaches. In the front wall of the Naos are two doorways facing the two central intercolumniations of the portico, which open into distinct courts, being separated from each other by a massive wall, though having an open colonnade on the outer side. These passages lead again into two distinct suites of apartments, between which there is no lateral communication.

It is evident, therefore, that the building contained two temples, which, though approached by a common portico, were entered by separate doors, and dedicated to the worship of different divinities — the latter point being clearly proved by the sculpture on their respective walls.

The supposition of Dr. Richardson that the portico of this temple originally consisted of eighteen columns is quite erroneous, for, besides that there is no reason whatever to conclude that because the Greeks always placed

an even number of columns in the front of their porticoes, the Egyptians did so before them ; there are no traces of any other than the fifteen columns now remaining to lead to such an hypothesis. Moreover, had there been the number he imagines, the two doorways to the temple would not have been in the centre of the portico ; for, had six columns stood in its front, five avenues would have been formed, and the two entrances to the temple would *then* naturally have been made to face the second and fourth aisles, and not two adjoining avenues, as is actually the case.

Another proof that the width of the portico did not exceed that which is given by a front of five columns is, that the side walls of the Naos corresponded exactly with the present width of its portico—whereas, had there been another row of pillars on either side of it, the temple would have stood *askew*. A much greater sin against the laws of architectural symmetry would have thereby been committed, than by the building having an uneven number of columns in the front of its

portico, as, after all, this peculiarity is less at variance with good taste than with the rules of Grecian architecture—by which we have no reason to suppose that the Egyptians were tied down.

The walls of the temple are finished with the taurus, or moulding, common to all Egyptian edifices, and which, being carried down all the salient angles of the temple, satisfactorily proves that the walls themselves never extended beyond their present limits.

The whole of the temple is built of fine sand-stone, and the walls are covered with figures and hieroglyphics. Of the former, that of Osiris, with a crocodile's head, is the most conspicuous. The chambers at the back part of the building are much choked up with sand, but the painting on their ceilings is very fresh.

We left Koum Ombos at night, but only reached Hagar Silsilis by the morning. In the afternoon, we landed abreast of Edfou, which is situated about half a mile from the bank of the river.

CHAPTER XV.

Description of the Grand Temple of Edfou—Mud-built Village—Perilous Visit to the Interior of the Temple—Colossal Figures on the exterior Walls—Ruins of Elythia—Opinion of Dr. Richardson—Antiquity of the Walls—Supposed Remains of a City—Tombs and Catacombs—Small Temple—Excavated Rock—Remains at Esneh—Opinions of Denon and Champollion—Site of Contra Laton—Ancient Hermonthis—Ruined Temples—Remarks on Egyptian Hieroglyphics—Arrival at Luxor.

THE Temple of Edfou (Apollinopolis Magnus,) is, perhaps, taken altogether, the most interesting of all the buildings of a similar character now remaining in Egypt. Though some few of the other temples exceed it in size, and others surpass it in beauty of execution ; yet, it is in a more perfect state of preservation than any other, and serves, therefore, to give a better idea of the peculiarities, as well in plan as in style of the Egyptian architecture. It faces the south (that is to say—to be particular—south ten degrees west.

The grand propylæon, through which it is entered, is precisely the same in form as that already described, in front of the great temple at Philoe ; but this is much larger, being two hundred and twenty feet in width, and about one hundred feet high. Access to its summit is gained by stone staircases in the towers, on either side the gateway, from which passages lead off to no less than *nine* tiers of apartments.

Within the gateway is a spacious rectangular open court, having colonnades at the sides, and at its extremity the stately portico of the temple, consisting of eighteen immense columns, disposed in three rows. The columns are very handsome ; their capitals, carved to represent the foliage of various trees, have a rich and pleasing effect ; but the pycnostyle disposition of the columns, common to all Egyptian porticoes, gives them a clumsy, heavy appearance.

The width of the central avenue of pillars is double that of the other intercolumniations ; and this arrangement is continued in the dis-

position of the columns in the cella, so that formerly the whole temple could be seen through from the gate in the propylæon to the posticum. But the doorway communicating from the portico with the cella is now completely choked up with sand ; so that, to explore the interior of the temple, we had to proceed to the mud-built village exalted upon its roof.

In the floor of one of the wretched huts there situated, a narrow aperture has been perforated, for the evident purpose of extracting *backschis*—which fully explained to us the reason for the doorway being blocked up.

Having paid the fee demanded, and procured tapers, we committed ourselves to the dark cavern below, squeezing our bodies, with some difficulty, through the narrow crevice, but hanging suspended for some minutes (very unlike Mohammed's tomb) between the filthy floor of the Arab hut and a heap of filth and dirt, that was but too perceptible below, doubtful of the prudence of trusting to the encouraging "taib taib" of

our Arab guide. Curiosity prevailed ; so, offering up a short prayer to Cloacina, we loosened our grasp, and alighted safely on the noxious heap, which reached to within a few inches of our dangling feet.

We found ourselves in a narrow chamber, on one side the principal apartment of the cella, into which we had to crawl on our hands and knees, through a chink in the party-wall, the door being completely choked up by the accumulated filth. This chamber was also much obstructed with sand ; but we were able to breathe again, and once more to make use of our eyes. It is a large, nearly square apartment, covered in with immense slabs of sand-stone, that rest upon twelve massive columns disposed in three rows.

The walls are so darkened by smoke, that it is difficult to make out anything but the names of the few travellers who have ventured to run the chance of suffocation, by visiting this infernal region. The doorway which communicates with the apartments behind this chamber is blocked up ; but, by

backschising the proprietor of another hovel, admittance may be obtained to them also. We were satisfied with what we had seen and undergone.

The temple is enclosed on three sides by a massive wall, advanced about fifteen feet from the building itself; and forming, as it were, an area or fosse, for its defence. The posticum opens into this ditch; but the only entrance to the temple from the *exterior* is by the gateway in the propylæon. This outer wall is covered on both sides with figures and hieroglyphics, as, indeed, is every part of the temple. The figures carved on the propylæon are colossal, and, though spoken of by Champollion as of a later date and inferior execution to those of Medinet Abou—which he extolled to the skies—yet I confess, to my unpractised eye, they appeared to be fac-similes of the same heroic personages.

The chief character of the *dramatis personæ* at Edfou (whom I take to be Osiris) wears a kind of basket-work helmet. In one hand he holds, at arm's length, some twenty or

thirty persons, (apparently by the hair of the head, but the figures of the delinquents are somewhat defaced), whilst the other grasps a many-tailed scourge, the impending position of which places the culprits in a by no means enviable situation.

These unfortunates are beseeching for mercy with outstretched arms—but there is no compassion in the imperturbable countenance of the giant hero. The hawk-headed and another monstrous divinity are standing by, like the surgeon and drum-major of a regiment, to witness this infliction of corporal punishment.

The usual processions, with offerings, &c. are sculptured in all directions, with the customary garniture of birds, beasts, and reptiles. The only variety I observed in the menagerie was a huge serpent on the south wall of the portico, which is raising itself up from a groupe of flowering lotus.

At a little distance to the south-west of the great temple, but standing on a much lower level, and facing the east, are the ruins of a

small temple, now nearly covered with sand and rubbish : it is said to have been dedicated to the monstrous Typhon. A third temple, spoken of by Belzoni, and the avenue of sphinxes, discovered by Signor Drovetti, are again buried in the sands.

The ruins of Elythia are on the right bank of the river, a few miles below Edfou. They offer a mine for the researches of the antiquary : for the temples, though prostrate, and nearly covered with sand, appear to have suffered more from the fury of the elements than from the pickaxes and crowbars of travelling *dilettanti*.

Numerous fragments of marble statues and granite slabs are strewn over the surface of the sandy plain, indicating that the destroyers *have been* at work here ; but the long grass and briars, covering this scene of devastation, prove that the ruins have enjoyed a respite for some years past. So little, indeed, are they now trodden by the foot of man, that the jackal and fox have taken up their abode in the chambers once occupied by the not less

cunning Egyptian priests; and the bath of the pampered crocodile—now a pool of green and stagnant water—affords a safe retreat to myriads of frogs, which therein croak away their peaceful existence, free from all risk of being served up in a *vol-au-vent*.

The walls of the ancient town, which, to the westward, reach within a hundred yards of the river, are composed of sun-burnt bricks, and enclose a rectangular space of about six hundred yards in length, (i. e. from west to east) and four hundred in breadth.

Contrary to the opinion of Dr. Richardson, I am inclined to think that the walls now standing at Elythia are of great antiquity. The nature of the brick of which they are composed is no proof of their being modern, as argued by him; for the Pyramids of the Fayoum, and other buildings, of which the antiquity cannot be disputed, are constructed of the very same materials, and have no appearance of greater age.

These walls were certainly not built by the Saracens, otherwise they would have been

flanked by towers, as was invariably their practice, and their very appearance contradicts the supposition that they were erected at a yet more recent date.

I found it impossible to measure their height, from the quantity of “*décombemens*” that had fallen from, and sand that had drifted against, them, but I should say it must have been about thirty-five feet. Their breadth at top is thirty feet.

Towards the river, the wall has been so broken down, and is so intermixed with the ruins of the temples, &c. that it is difficult to say anything of it with certainty; but, on the other three sides, the walls were mounted from the interior by sloping ramps, of which there is one in the centre of each front. These must have served merely for manning the walls for their defence, as there are no corresponding slopes on the outside. Egress appears to have been afforded by means of gateways.

At the north-west angle of the walls, the ground is slightly elevated above the general

level of the town; and an enclosed fort, or citadel, appears to have stood there. Opposite the south-west angle, outside the walls, a quay, built of large blocks of stone, projects into the bed of the river, which is there very deep.

Judging from these extensive remains, and the circumstance of there being a road leading from hence to Berenice,* which would certainly have ensured its sharing largely in the trade formerly carried on by that route with India, it may fairly be concluded that Elythia was, in former ages, one of the most flourishing cities of Upper Egypt.

Indeed, that such was the case is sufficiently proved by the vast extent of tombs and catacombs that are excavated on the side of the hills to the eastward of the town, most of which have, beyond doubt, been made for the reception of the mummies of wealthy persons. The tombs have suffered much from the irruptions of the moderns, whose Visigothic names deface the fair proportions of the

* Discovered by Belzoni.

brown and yellow ancients that figure upon the walls, engaged in various agricultural and mechanical pursuits.

The small peripteral temple mentioned by various travellers, as standing a little beyond the walls of Elythia, in a northerly direction, is now prostrate; and, a few years hence, its site will be marked only by a heap of sand, somewhat higher than the adjacent mounds.

About a mile beyond this temple, is a small isolated rock, which has been hollowed out and carved externally on its southern side, so as to give it the appearance, when seen from a little distance, of the portico of a temple. It has, probably, been the abode of some of the early troglodyte Christians; but it has neither sculptured figures nor inscriptions to tell its story. Much of the artificial casing has fallen down, and the mass of superincumbent rock has now little more to uphold it than a rudely-carved pillar in the centre of the cavern.

About two miles and a half from Elythia, in a south-west direction, there is yet another

ruined (hypogean) temple, which, though rich in fragments of sphinxes and granite slabs, and carved with the usual mystical Egyptian characters, does not appear ever to have been finished.

The next town of any importance met with in descending the Nile is Esneh (Latopolis). It is situated on the left bank of the river, possesses a tolerable market, good bazaars, and some manufactories of cotton and pottery; has a large garrison, and is the see of a Coptic bishop. As in most Egyptian places, the houses are built chiefly of unburnt bricks; the only exceptions being the palace of the Governor, the barrack of the troops, and the commandant's house.

The ancient remains to be seen here consist of a quay, built of large blocks of sandstone, and lately repaired from the ruins of a temple at Contra Laton;* and the portico of

* Greatly as the want of antiquarian taste evinced by the destruction and misappropriation of these splendid works is to be deplored, yet can we be surprised at it in barbarous Egypt, when in classic Italy we see at this day the beautiful portico of Octavia turned into the Billingsgate of Rome, and bull-baiting perpetrated in the mausoleum of Augustus?

a temple, now walled up in front, and serving as a government store.

The portico presents a front of six, and contains four rows of columns. The columns and walls are covered with figures, amongst which a ram's-headed divinity is the most prominent.

The capitals are extremely well executed and in very good taste, bearing a just proportion to the size of the shafts of the columns ; and though presenting amongst themselves three varieties, in the leaves of the lotus, doum, and date, yet there is not that marked difference between them, either in size, or in the detail of their enrichments, which displeases the eye in the capitals of the early Egyptian style.

The arrangement of the columns shows, also, that a better taste had been engrafted on that of the Egyptians at the time of the erection of this portico. It is strictly pycnostyle, according to the accepted meaning of that term, the intercolumniations being equal to a diameter and a half of the columns.

Denon speaks of this temple as presenting

the best specimen extant of Egyptian architecture. Champollion, whose hieroglyphicomania prevented his seeing anything beautiful in the works of the moderns, contents himself with saying it is “assez belle:” that it is *modern*, as stated by him, in comparison with others, there can be little doubt—in-
deed it seems to me that nothing more than what is now standing ever was built. There is no propylon (at least no remains of one can be traced), nor is there any appearance that a cella, or any other building, has ever been attached to the portico.

That “the roadway is now on a level with the roof of the body of the temple,” as has been stated, I will take upon me positively to deny, since the *street*, which is immediately behind the edifice, is twenty-five feet below the level of the roof of the portico. The back wall, too, is covered with figures, excepting on a small portion in the centre, where an opening on the level of the street has been blocked up by a wall of rough stone; unlike the rest of the exterior of the building, which

is built of finely wrought stone, and finished with the usual moulding.

That this opening was one of the original doorways of the temple, there cannot be two opinions, from the globe and winged serpent being engraved over it. The temple, therefore, either never was completed, as I am inclined to suppose, or the principal part has been pulled down and carried away; but certainly no portion of it is buried under the present town of Esneh.

A heap of stones, about a mile and a half from Esneh, but on the opposite bank of the river, marks the site of Contra Laton. The stones of the ruined temple, that was to be seen here a few years back, have almost all been carried away for the construction of the modern government buildings at Esneh.

One solitary block still remains to afford speculation to the antiquary. Though evidently chiselled by an Egyptian hand, yet, whether the two eyes and fragment of the intermediate nose, which are carved on it, belonged to the countenance of the placid Isis,

or formed part of the hideous visage of the brutal Typhon, would be a difficult problem to determine.

Erment (the ancient Hermonthis) is fifteen miles below Esneh, on the same side the river, but distant about half a mile from the bank. It is nothing more than a mud village, at the furthest extremity of which, facing the southwest, are the ruins of two temples. The first, from the proportions of its prostrate columns, and absence of all hieroglyphical characters, is evidently a work of the Greeks or Romans. The other, judging from the style and finish of the few remaining columns, I should imagine was of about the same antiquity as that at Esneh. Its dimensions, however, are (or, I should, perhaps, rather say its *scale* is) much smaller.

Of the columns in the pronaos (which consisted apparently of sixteen, disposed in four rows), six only are now standing. In front of the pronaos, there appears to have been a small dromos, or peristyle court; and, in advance of it again, a portico, or some other

edifice, supported by columns, of a larger size than those of the pronaos, one of which only is standing—but there are no remains of the usual Egyptian propylon.

The cella is tolerably perfect, and contains three chambers *en suite*, the walls of which are entirely covered with figures and hieroglyphics. The monster, Typhon, is very conspicuous in the central chamber: he is sometimes accompanied by his amiable-looking consort; at others, standing before Horus, who is seated on a budding lotus. In the adytum, Isis is represented in various attitudes and under divers devices, but always nursing an infant. On one occasion, she is sculptured with the head of a cow, suckling the youngster.

On the roof of this chamber, are painted several of the signs of the zodiac. Aquila, Aries, Taurus, and Cancer, were all that I could distinguish, in consequence of the smoke with which the walls are darkened.

Champollion says, that this temple was built to commemorate the birth of Ptolemy

Cæsarion, the son of Cleopatra and Julius Cæsar, and that the signs of the zodiac are the *thème natal* of the child.*

* If such be the case, it is to be presumed that the whole tale, told by the sculptured figures on the walls of this temple, would have been known to the Romans. Indeed, Monsieur Champollion seems not to have entertained a doubt on the subject, for, in describing the principal apartment of this same temple, he says, “ Le reste de cette salle est décoré de tableaux dans lesquels le jeune Harphré est successivement présenté à Ammon, à Mandon son père, aux dieux Phré, Phtah, Sev (Saturne), &c., qui l'accueillent en lui remettant leurs insignes caractéristiques comme se démettant, en faveur de l'enfant, de tout leur pouvoir et de leurs attributions particulières, et Ptolémée Cæsarion, à face enfantine, assiste à toutes ces presentations de *son image*, le *dieu Harphré*, dont il est le représentant sur la terre. Tout cela est *de la flatterie sacerdotale*, mais tout à fait dans le génie de l'ancienne Egypte, qui assimilait ses rois à ses dieux.”

Is it not, therefore, extraordinary that, in so very short a period after the erection of this temple as the time of Pliny, all knowledge of the hieroglyphical language of the Egyptians should have been completely lost? Pliny, it is true, pretended to some acquaintance with it, and, though in general very guarded on the subject, declared positively, that the inscription on one of the Egyptian obelisks stated it to have been erected in consequence of a dream: whilst another, brought to Rome from Heliopolis by the Emperor Augustus, he maintained had been applied to astronomical purposes!

Now, Champollion gives a very different *reading* of the inscriptions on these monuments; whence it is clear that either he or Pliny was mistaken in the matter. If the latter, then, supposing Champollion to be correct, the Roman Emperors must have been unconscious of the “*flatterie sacerdotale*” offered to them, which is not at all probable.

To any one acquainted with the never varying expression of

On the walls of the large apartment are several figures of crocodiles. One, which is standing on a pedestal, has a hawk's head; and, on the eastern side of the temple, embanked with massive stone walls, and having a flight of steps down to it, is a large tank, wherein, it may be presumed, the living animal was *housed*, though such a supposition is, perhaps, rather at variance with Monsieur Champollion's statement; as I should hardly think the crocodile was so respectfully treated in the days of Julius Cæsar.

A giraffe and a wolf, sculptured on the exterior of the end wall of the temple, were, according to the statement of some English traveller, looking different ways a few years back. Which of them has faced to the right about, I know not, but they now both look to the east.

features in the Egyptian figures, the following instance of Monsieur Champollion's "imaginativeness" cannot but be amusing. In describing a kind of levée of the Lady Goddess, mother of Harphré, he says—"Le père divin, Amon Ra, lui donne *affectueusement* la main, comme pour la féliciter de son heureuse délivrance, et les autres dieux *partagent la joie* de leur chef!!"

In the course of the day, we reached Luxor, distant but a few miles from Esneh, and “brought to” opposite the ruins of its splendid temple, part of which the French *savans*, (lately employed to superintend the abduction of one of the obelisks that stood in front of the edifice,) have converted into a modern white-washed villa, with glazed windows, green jalousies, and brick chimneys! Had the natives of any other country in the world been guilty of such a barbarous act, there is not a *feuilleton* published in Paris but would have abused them with all the fervour of outraged taste—and not without reason.

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